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Nigella Lawson, p15

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20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,208

TUESDAY MARCH 7 1995

Hughes quits after affair

Tories hit by minister's resignation

By Philip Webster and Nigel Williamson

JOHN MAJOR lost another senior Government member yesterday when Robert Hughes, the Public Service and Science Minister, admitted an extra-marital affair and resigned to try to save his marriage.

In the latest in a chapter of scandals that has dogged the Government since the 1992 election, Mr Hughes left office saying he had put "unacceptable pressure" on his marriage because of the affair.

Appearing briefly with his wife at the Conservative Association offices in his constituency of Harrow West, he said: "I cannot carry out my ministerial responsibilities at the same time as putting my marriage together."

The Prime Minister, who was told on Friday that Mr Hughes intended to resign, swiftly appointed John Hiram, a former Labour Minister who defected to the SDP before joining the Tories, to replace him.

Mr Hughes's departure came as a shock even to his closest colleagues. It is understood that he told the Conservative Whips he was resigning and that no pressure was put on him to go. Downing Street announced yesterday that the resignation was for "family reasons".

He appears to have agreed with his second wife, Sandra, that he should leave office to concentrate on their marriage after confessing to her that he had had an affair. They have three young daughters. Speaking to reporters in Harrow yesterday, he said the affair had ended more than six



Hiram: greeted by shout of "dirty rat"

months ago. Mr Hughes, 43, is the latest in a series of junior ministers to step down from the Government.

Last month, Charles Wardle left in protest at Government immigration policy and Allan Stewart, the Scottish Office Minister, went after threatening anti-motorway campaigners with a pickaxe. But since the 1992 election Mr Major has lost several other ministers, including David Mellor, Tim Yeo and the Earl of Caithness, because of troubles in their private lives.

Mr Hughes, who is popular with his colleagues, is firmly on the left of his party. He was elected in 1987 and became Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, in 1989. He worked in Mr Major's election campaign team and served a two-year stint in the Whips' office before his appointment last summer as the junior citizen's charter minister and number two to David Hunt, Senior Conser-

vative backbenchers were adamant that an affair in itself would not have meant Mr Hughes being required by the Government to resign. Friends felt he had sacrificed his career to save his marriage.

Mr Hughes, who appeared sombre and strained, said he apologised for what had happened but now wanted to put his family first. Asked why he was resigning at this juncture if the affair had ended last year, he said: "The pressure has become great and I felt now is the time to go."

Mrs Hughes, who looked tired but calmly determined, told reporters that she still loved her husband and would stand by him. The detached family home in Southall, west London, later stood empty, with curtains drawn and uncollected post on the doormat. Mrs Hughes admitted she was "very distressed". She added: "Essentially we are a very happy and united family and we intend to remain that way." Mr Hughes made it clear he had no intention of resigning as an MP. Joyce Nickolay, the local party chairwoman, praised him for being "man enough" to admit what he had done.

Mr Hiram, who is 36 today, made a swift debut in his new job, as yesterday was the monthly Commons question time slot for his department. He was not allowed to forget his past. As he rose to answer his first question Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, shouted: "dirty double rat!"

Man in the news, page 8



Robert Hughes and his wife, Sandra, yesterday: "I cannot carry out my responsibilities at the same time as putting my marriage together"

Court backs rescue deal for Barings

By Robert Miller

THE High Court yesterday gave the green light for ING, the Dutch bank, to rescue Barings, the merchant bank that collapsed just over a week ago owing £860 million, after the majority of directors said they would forgo their bonuses. The deal was almost

staggered by a protest from bondholders who stand to lose almost £100 million. To ensure that the deal was approved, six directors agreed not to participate in the bonus scheme for which £105 million had been set aside. Nor will there be a bonus for Nick Leeson, the man held responsible for the debacle and

currently in custody in Frankfurt. More junior staff should receive their bonuses soon.

The clearance came just two hours before an 8pm deadline when ING (Internationale Nederlanden Groep) and the administrators had to sign a final agreement and inform Far East markets that ING was in control.

The ruling was held up after bondholders with about £100 million in subordinated loan notes protested at the terms of the deal. They are to receive an up-front payment of just £5 million. A fund manager said: "It's a horse trade to stop us putting the company into liquidation." Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-

Chancellor, approved the takeover and discharged administration orders that had put various Barings companies in the hands of Ernst & Young, the accountant. The parent company, Barings plc, however, remains in the hands of the administrators.

The judge was told that the Bank of England approved the package as a "generally fair settlement in the best interests of depositors" and would authorise Barings group companies to continue trading under new ownership.

Referring to the deal stuck with bondholders, Sir Richard said: "The arrangement has been negotiated and

brought to court as a matter of great urgency. I am told that, unless it can become final with ING in the saddle and in a position to carry on the respective businesses by 8pm in time for the opening of business in Tokyo at midnight London time, there will be very damaging repercussions on the markets in the Far East, which might produce a domino effect of very serious proportions, not only for Barings itself but with possible international ramifications."

In those circumstances, it was a "relatively easy" decision to approve the rescue agreement. "I have no doubt that as a matter of discretion I

ought to grant approval."

He said that he sympathised with bond-holder clients of Law Debenture Trust who ranked as subordinated creditors and might be less well covered by the rescue deal than they would be under a liquidation. But in the absence of evidence indicating positively that they would be adversely affected, "I don't think the possibility is sufficient to deflect me from approving the arrangement given the weight of the other reasons for approval."

Forgery accusation, page 2
Photograph, page 23
Pennington, page 25
Graham Scourie, page 27

Gas chiefs received extra share options, Labour says

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

THE controversy over executive pay heightened last night as Labour claimed that British Gas had awarded one million share options to six directors late last year, without informing shareholders or the public. The options, given months after the company had decided to wind up the scheme, included 268,000 to Cedric Brown.

Accountants

Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (CIMA) December 1994 exam results will be published tomorrow.

INDEX

Arts	36-38
Body and Mind	14
Bridge	39
Chess	39
Court and Social	16
Diary	16
Law	31-35
Letters	17
Obituaries	19
Your Own Business	20
TV & Radio	42-43

the chief executive of British Gas, who appears before the House of Commons employment select committee today.

Mr Brown is already embroiled in a row over his £475,000 salary, and another share-based bonus worth £593,000. Last night's disclosure of another award of 268,000 share options, already worth a paper profit of more than £28,000, could boost his emoluments substantially.

Labour claims that the chief executive stands to make a profit of £240,000 from his 268,000 share options if the shares performed as well as they have done in the last three years.

British Gas last night dismissed as "nonsense" Labour's charge that the public had not been informed. "Executive share options were awarded to six executive directors of British Gas in October/November. Under the rules of the stock exchange the grants were immediately

notified to the exchange and were made public."

Last night Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, was incensed over the extra awards. He urged Mr Brown to tell the committee today "what aspects of his performance justifies an increase in the number of share options awarded to him from 23,000 in 1993 to 268,000 in 1994".



Cedric Brown: already involved in salary row

Union's Clause 4 blow for Blair

Tony Blair's attempt to drop Clause Four from the Labour Party constitution received a severe setback when the Transport and General Workers' Union, the biggest union affiliated to the party, told him that the nationalisation clause should be kept in its existing form.

The union is certain to oppose him at the special conference on April 29, where it will account for 15 per cent of the vote. Page 2

Market turmoil

European foreign exchange and share markets were in turmoil yesterday after the devaluation of the peseta and the escudo. The pound, the French franc and the escudo sank to new record lows against the mark. Page 23

Mission anger

France yesterday opened a diplomatic mission to Iraq, to the annoyance of the Western allies. The United States has been trying to gain support for its continuing tough line on sanctions. Page 13

Legal aid scheme time 'running out'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor is questioning "the whole future" of the criminal legal aid scheme after his department's repeated failure to ensure adequate controls of the system which costs £432 million a year, MPs were told last night.

After tough questioning from angry MPs, Sir Thomas Legg, permanent secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department, admitted that the time had almost run out for the scheme in its present form.

Instead, he said, responsibility for granting criminal legal aid might have to be removed from the courts altogether and different controls introduced, such as placing it under the Legal Aid Board which handles civil legal aid.

As well as millions of pounds being granted in criminal legal aid by courts without proper evidence of an accused's income and means, MPs heard last night that more than 90 solicitors' firms were still under investigation for alleged abuse of the legal

aid advice (green form) scheme.

At present 300 law firms are currently the subject of preliminary enquiries by the board, because of suspected legal aid irregularities, bringing to 2,500 the total of such investigations since 1992.

Sir Thomas told the Public Accounts Committee of MPs: "The Lord Chancellor regards the whole future of the scheme in its present form as to some extent in question." But he added: "I do not think we have reached that point yet."

MPs repeatedly expressed concern over the recent report on the legal aid fund from Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, who refused for the fourth successive year to "qualify" or approve the legal aid account.

The report, published two weeks ago, found that in more than a third of cases where criminal legal aid was granted, applicants did not provide documentary evidence as required under the regulations.

School sets up 6in no-go zone to stop kissing

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

PUPILS at a Scottish boarding school have been warned that any of opposite sex caught within six inches of each other will be disciplined.

John Robertson, rector (headmaster) of Dollar Academy, near Perth, has told pupils at the £8,300-a-year school that he is introducing the "six-inch rule" to stop them kissing and cuddling in the street. Such behaviour was not the image he wanted for the school. Teachers and pupils have been instructed to keep an eye out for pupils

flouting the ruling, which does not apply to pupils in the academy's junior school. Members of the public are also being encouraged to report to the rector if they catch boys and girls from the school kissing in the street.

Approximately 1,100 pupils attend the academy, whose motto is *Juventus Vero Fortuna* (I carry the fortunes of youth). Roughly half are boarders living in six single-sex dormitories.

Mr Robertson's tough stance has surprised parents. He was promoted from deputy rector last year and came to his new job with a reputation for

being liberal. A pupil who did not wish to be named said: "We were at the assembly when he stood up and said he was introducing this '6 in rule' because spring is in the air. He then went on to tell us what it meant."

"Once we got outside, we fell about laughing. We just couldn't believe it. It's a bit of a drastic measure to take - it's not as if we're having red-hot sex sessions in the middle of the street."

David Ward, a member of Dollar Academy Parents' Association, said: "I heard about it from my 17-year-old son, who just mentioned it in passing. I've never come across this before. It's

a very unusual step to take, and I'll be trying to find out more about it."

Another parent said: "I think it's ridiculous. My son thought it was a joke. How are they going to police it? Are teachers going to be walking around the school with a ruler measuring the space between pupils?"

The rector's secretary said that neither the rector nor the deputy rector was available for comment, and nobody else at the school was authorised to comment.

Nigella Lawson, page 15
Leading article, page 19

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Quote ref: T11

Virtual minister proves there can't be anything to the job in reality

Bad dreams recur, and some are familiar to many. One of the commonest is of being thrust into an unaccustomed role on a stage but unacquainted with the script, in the pilot's seat but unable to fly, or in an exam room, but ignorant of the syllabus.

A variation on this might be to find yourself at the Dispatch box on a Monday in the Commons, facing the Opposition as a junior minister for the Civil Service, but knowing nothing about the Civil Ser-

vice. Indeed, so far as you can remember, you were not even a minister on Sunday. Dennis Skinner is shouting: "You dirty, double-rat!"

Mr John Horam MP found himself in the middle of exactly this nightmare yesterday afternoon. He was the Prime Minister's last-minute replacement for the minister Robert Hughes who resigned over the weekend. Horam had had literally hours to bone himself up on his new job, and prepare for the Questions on the Order

Paper. It would have been upsetting if he had come unstuck. It was somehow even more upsetting that he did not. There really cannot be anything to the job.

Had we not known of the circumstances, we would never have guessed, except from Labour's jeers. Horam looked and sounded as though he had been a civil service minister all his life. Had Mr Major wandered down the Strand, picked someone at random from a bus queue, and offered him or her a morning's civil

service coaching in not answering questions, would we have noticed anything untoward. It's profoundly unsettling. If you don't know anything about flying, you cannot be a pilot. From this we conclude that pilots are useful. But if you don't know anything about the Civil Service, you can still be a Tory

minister. From this we conclude that Tory ministers are not useful. Horam was once a Labour minister — but it made no difference. In calling him a dirty double-rat, Skinner omitted one of Horam's rat-incarnations. "Triple-rat" would have been

more accurate. The point is any rat will do.

The day cannot be far off when they will install one of those hot chocolate vending machines at the Dispatch box, with an internal tape-recording programmed to say "my honourable friend is absolutely right" (to Tory questioners) or "that's pretty rich, coming from the Party which had to go to the IMF with a begging bowl in 1976" (to Labour questioners) or "what would be interesting would be to discover the hon Member's

own policy on this issue, as his party has several" (to Liberal Democrat questioners).

No, the really disturbing nightmare is not that John Horam couldn't handle it, but that he could. A question on quangos? What could be easier. Governments, all governments, are concerned about quangos in general, but attached to them in particular. A question about the hiving off of public services? As a Tory, Horam could make the case for hiving off public services just as easily as he

could make the case against, when a Labour MP.

And there was a question on the importance of science. No minister — Labour, SDP or Conservative — doubts the importance of science. Mr Horam was sure, yesterday, that science was important. And I reviewed his performance on video. Alone in a darkened room it was virtual reality. A virtual minister in a virtual vacuum: a virtual U-turn in political allegiance — and virtually indistinguishable from all the rest.

T & G warns Blair that Clause 4 must be kept

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR'S attempt to ditch Labour's Clause Four suffered a severe setback yesterday when the biggest union affiliated to the party openly defied him.

The Transport and General Workers' Union told the Labour leader that the nationalisation clause, the cornerstone of the party's constitution, should be kept in its existing form.

The union said that a consultation of its regional and district committees had shown a clear majority opposing Mr Blair's attempts to update the constitution.

The T & G is now certain to oppose the Labour leader at the special conference on April 29, where it will account for about 15 per cent of the vote. Although the union's executive will meet again on April 6 to look at Mr Blair's new draft of the clause, it is not thought that the opposition will soften.

The union's 75 delegates at the special conference are expected to back the execu-

tive's decision. They pointed to a MORI poll carried out last week which showed that 72 per cent of ordinary trade union members backed the Labour leader's move.

The GMB general union, the second largest affiliated union, accounting for about 12 per cent of the vote, has suggested it will back change, although it is now asking for some commitment to full employment. It may, however, abstain on Friday in Scotland, where its members are more hardline.

Most of the other unions are expected to support Mr Blair on April 29, although Unison, with 12 per cent of the vote, is still undecided. If Mr Blair has two of the three biggest unions behind him he will be home and dry. If only one, the GMB, backs him he will probably still scrape through with the support of smaller unions. The trade unions account for 70 per cent of the final vote, with the constituency parties holding 30 per cent.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, last night tried to shrug off the snub and insisted that Mr Blair would win on the key vote at the special conference. "I think the important thing is that Tony Blair will win this vote on the 29th."

Asked if the union's decision represented a serious snub, Mr Brown said: "I think we've got to recognise that it is part of a debate."

The 30-member executive will now press Labour's ruling national executive to ensure that delegates can vote to keep Clause Four at the special conference on April 29. Union leaders are annoyed that delegates will only get a vote on whether they support the new wording, not on whether they back the existing clause. Mr Morris said the consultation process had shown a "very deep commitment" to public ownership. "That was the recurring theme from our members who feel very strongly that utilities like water should be retained under some modicum of public ownership."

□ The Lords last night backed the Government's plans for a wide-ranging shake-up in the structure of the health service in England and Wales. The Health Authorities Bill, which has already cleared the Commons, was given a second reading without a vote.

The measure would abolish the eight English regional health authorities and merge district and family health service authorities in England and Wales into new health authorities.



Dealers on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange, where Mr Leeson dealt, taking a break yesterday

Leeson held on forgery charge

By Dominic Kennedy in Frankfurt

NICK LEESON is accused of forging the signature of a director of a Wall Street stock-broking firm in an \$81 million international transaction, according to the public prosecutor in Frankfurt.

Giving details of the allegations which led to Mr Leeson being jailed pending extradition proceedings to Singapore, it was disclosed that the 28-year-old banker supposedly forged the signature of Richard Hogan of Spear, Leeds, and Kellogg.

Hans-Herman Eckert, the

prosecutor, said a copy of the document, sent from Singapore, purports to say that Spear, Leeds and Kellogg transferred 108 million marks (about \$81 million) to Baring Futures in Singapore for derivatives trading on the Nikkei 225 stock market index. The prosecutor's office said that the Singaporean Justice Department alleges that Mr Leeson used the document as collateral to obtain a loan from Citibank in Singapore. This money was then allegedly used to conduct the trades that

led to Barings' collapse last week.

There was no indication what connection, if any, Spear, Leeds and Kellogg had with Barings or how Mr Leeson would have been able to carry out the alleged forgery. Mr Hogan, managing director of Spear, Leeds and Kellogg, a specialist broking firm, yesterday declined to comment on any alleged transfer of funds from his firm to Barings.

Herr Eckert said the time given to the Singapore au-

thorities to make their case for extradition has been extended from 40 days to two months.

According to the prosecutor, in order to satisfy the German courts that Mr Leeson should be extradited on fraud charges, Singapore must provide documents bearing Mr Leeson's signature that have been passed to a second party who made a financial decision based on the falsified papers. Otherwise, he would only be eligible to be tried for falsification of documents which is not an extraditable offence.

Mr Leeson greeted with relief the purchase of Barings Bank when he heard the news in his jail cell yesterday. His lawyer Eberhard Kempf, who visited Mr Leeson for two hours of detailed discussions, gave his client's reaction as he left the prison yesterday morning.

He said Mr Leeson felt the saving of Barings Bank tempered the severity of the accusations levelled against him. "It's good information for him because of the weight of the charges brought up against him," Herr Kempf said. "It is not the same if you will be charged with having ruined a bank. It's good to know that everything will be all right and the bank will carry on."

He said Mr Leeson appeared "relatively well" but he was unable to comment on his mental state. A team of three Singapore financial police, who arrived last week seeking the arrest of Mr Leeson, have left Frankfurt. However, they are expected to return with further documents to add substance to their case.

The public prosecutor is also considering whether to fly to Singapore for further inquiries.

Court approval, page 1



Morris: sending clear message to Labour

tive's decision. Bill Morris, the union's general secretary, said: "T & G members have sent a clear message — they want the Labour Party to retain Clause Four as it is. This reflects the strength of feeling within the union on the principle of public ownership."

The T & G stand comes days before a critical vote on Clause Four in Scotland, where Mr Blair also risks defeat at the hands of the unions. Two hours before the vote is taken in Inverness on Friday Mr Blair will make a personal appeal to the Scottish constituencies and unions to help Labour become electable.

Although the T & G move was predicted, the leadership was taken aback by the uncompromising stand, expecting members to wait to see the new wording of the clause. Sources close to Mr Blair privately suggested that union leaders were out of touch with

Tories join protests over £90m bonuses for staff

By Andrew Pierce

SENIOR Tory MPs have joined forces with Labour and the charities hit by the collapse of Barings to condemn the decision to pay the bank's employees £90 million in bonuses.

Many of the bank's charity clients had millions of pounds invested and their assets are frozen. Some have been forced to lay off staff.

Sir Peter Tapsell, the Tory MP for East Lindsey, a former stockbroker, said: "Before any bonus is paid the new owners of the bank must be absolutely certain that no depositor, or institution which lent Barings money, can lose."

"Under no circumstances should any money be paid to anyone who is responsible for this debacle and the considerable international damage it has caused to the City of London."

Some of the most prominent casualties, such as the Prince's Trust, which has £1

million invested with the bank, declined to comment on the deal forged with ING, a Dutch bank, which has ensured the 4,000 staff receive bonuses which were about to be paid when Barings collapsed.

James Bax, head of the Singapore office who warned Barings almost three years ago about the danger of giving Nick Leeson too much power, is one of the biggest winners. He will receive over £1 million. Employees of Barings Futures Singapore, where Mr Leeson worked, have not been told their fate.

Alastair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, attacked the priorities of the businessmen who struck the deal with the Dutch bank. "The first call for any funds should be for depositors. I think there will be considerable anger in the country that senior executives, who are highly paid, have ensured that they get their money while their clients, some of whom work closely

with vulnerable people, have been pushed to the brink and don't know whether they can survive."

Neil Buckland, director of the Cambridge-based Thalidomide Trust, which has £600,000 invested in the bank, said that an urgent statement was required from the administrators. "I cannot get any information about our assets. I have to say it sticks in the craw to know they have thrashed out a deal on the bonuses before they have had the courtesy to put us out of our misery."

Staffing levels at Aspire, a spinal injury charity based at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in north London, have been cut. Martina Crowley, the chief executive, said: "Every project has been delayed, then we discover that the executives, who may have known three years ago, are to receive huge bonuses. It is sickening. We have still not had a letter, fax or telephone call from Barings."

Inquiry ordered on new and 'easier' A levels

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

THE Government's examinations watchdog has ordered an urgent inquiry into the standards of controversial new A levels that boost pass rates by allowing candidates to sit papers throughout their two-year course.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has told officials to prepare a detailed report in anticipation of criticism that the new-style examinations are easier than traditional A levels. The study, which is expected to go before the authority's ruling council later this month, follows concern at the rapid introduction of modular A levels in schools and colleges. Council members want assurances that the new courses are as demanding as traditional A levels.

Unpublished research commissioned by the authority, disclosed in *The Times*, shows that pupils who take modular courses gain at least one extra grade. Council members have also heard anecdotal evidence that schools are entering weaker candidates for modular examinations.

In conventional A levels, grades are decided by final examination. But in modular courses these are only worth 30 per cent. Instead, the syllabus is divided into self-contained units usually equivalent to a term's work. Pupils can choose to be formally examined after completing each unit rather than waiting until the end of two years' study.

If a pupil is unhappy with his mark for a particular unit he can retake that examination as often as he wishes within a four-year period. The flexible structure is designed to increase motivation, particularly in the first year of A-level study. Pupils know how they are performing and have unprecedented opportunity to improve their grades. Supporters argue that higher grades are evidence that modular courses encourage students to work harder.

The authority is anxious to collect evidence about modular courses in the light of their increasing popularity and establish whether guidelines it introduced two years ago are being followed. Almost half the mathematics and science courses offered by the eight A-level examination boards are now modular.

In particular, council members want to know how many pupils begin modular courses and how many drop out. Dr John Marks, a council member, said: "The perception is that modular courses are easier. We do not want a two-tier A-level examination with weaker candidates sitting modular courses."

Insider becomes new BR chairman

John Welsby, chief executive of British Rail, was named as its new chairman yesterday.

He will take over from Sir Bob Reid, 50, at the end of the month. Mr Welsby, 56, joined British Rail in 1978 as director of strategic studies and became chief executive in 1990. He has been an enthusiastic supporter of the privatisation programme.

Sea search fails

A two-day search has failed to trace the British solo yachtman Harry Mitchell, 70, and his 40ft yacht *Henry Hornblower*, lost deep in the southern ocean 1,500 miles west of Cape Horn while competing in a round-the-world race.

One-day dispute

The Post Office and a union clashed over the effect of a one-day strike yesterday. The Post Office said that only 75 of 1,500 local offices were closed, but the Communication Workers' Union accused it of manipulating figures.

Brothers missing

Two fishermen were missing last night after their vessel capsized in Carlisle Lough off the Co Down coast. A third man was rescued by another fishing boat. The missing men are brothers from Carlisle.

Dooley in court

The former England rugby international Wade Dooley, a serving policeman, is to be charged with drink-driving after an accident in which a 14-year-old girl's skull was fractured. He will appear in court next month.

Help on the line

A nationwide railway timetable and passenger information service begins tomorrow on 0891 910910. The private service, to rival BR's own information lines, will cost between 39 and 49p a minute.

Hunt appeal

The Court of Appeal began a two-day hearing yesterday into the right of local authorities to ban hunting on land they own. Somerset County Council claims it did not exceed its powers in banning stag hunts in the Quantocks.

CORRECTION

An alleged fraud (Michael Pinto-Duschinsky article, February 24) involved a procurement agent employed by the Overseas Development Administration, and not any public servant.



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حکومت الامم المتحدة

Nursery teacher bound and gagged asthmatic boy, 4

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged four who suffers from asthma was bound and gagged with sticky tape by his nursery teacher as punishment for clapping in class.

Nathaniel Thomas's father said yesterday he was considering legal action, in spite of receiving a full apology after the incident at the nursery unit of Lea Bank Junior and Infant School in Lea Bank, Birmingham.

Dean Thomas claimed that his son's hands and legs were tied together to stop him making a noise. When he confirmed, the teacher gagged him. "My boy was punished because he was clapping in class. I wouldn't expect a teenager to be treated like that, let alone a four-year-old child," Mr Thomas said.

He said the punishment lasted 30 minutes. "I am sure the teacher could have punished him in many other ways, like making him stand on his own in the corner. My son is asthmatic and this could have triggered a reaction, particularly when she put the tape on his mouth."

Jenny Thomas, the school's head teacher, confirmed that Nathaniel's hands were tied with tape and that another piece was used on his mouth. She said that disciplinary action was being taken against an unnamed teacher. "We are treating this extremely

seriously," she said.

A spokeswoman for Birmingham Education Authority said the teacher was currently on sick leave. She said: "We do hold up our hands as to the school and fully admit that the teacher did tape the boy's hands, feet and mouth. The boy was obviously very distressed by what the teacher did to him."

"Although we understand from the school that the tape was only on his mouth for a minute or so, we do recognise this is no justification for her actions."

She said that she was not able to give details of what disciplinary action was being taken against the teacher. Andy Howell, chairman of Birmingham education committee, said: "In the light of the seriousness of these allegations I have spoken to the chief education officer, Professor Tim Brighouse, and an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident is now underway."

Chris Keates, a spokeswoman for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said yesterday: "I do not think anyone would consider this appropriate action."

The advice we always give is never use physical punishment. Refer the problem to senior management and, if

necessary, the child should be excluded.

"Do not lay a hand on the child because the teacher always loses out. If a physical sanction is used it tends to distract from what the teacher may have had to put up with. Teachers have to put up with a great deal of frustration from difficult pupils. Four-year-olds can be just as disruptive and inflict as much damage as 15-year-olds."

Parents with children at the school expressed concern. Kerry Ingram, 26, was worried about her three-year-old daughter Naomi. She said: "I would not want anything like this to happen to her. It's disgusting, totally out of order. How could they do that to a four-year-old just for clapping?"

Karen Rawlings, 29, said: "I know Nathaniel and he has always seemed like a nice, quiet lad. I have never seen him playing up."

A member of staff who did not want to be named said yesterday that the teacher involved was off work suffering from stress.

She added: "Personally I am glad the boy's father has done what he has done. This should not be hushed up. Any teacher or nursery teacher who does anything like this should be sacked instantly. There is no excuse for it."



THE irreverent and colourful spirit of Franco Moschino, who died last year, lived on in his designs for the Milan ready-to-wear autumn/winter collection previews, Ian R. Webb writes. "Forever Moschino" was the theme and the collection appeared to be a celebration of his greatest hits. He was known as the "Bad Boy" of Italian fashion

Colour and comedy keep Moschino name alive

and earned his reputation by debunking the concept of glamour and poking fun at the industry. This season's show, designed by the creative team at his studio, was

full of typical jokes. As well as the ladybird dress, above, there was a little black dress with an obviously faux red, green and white beaded necklace and FAKE emblazoned

across the front with an arrow pointing to the gaudy "jewels". But the real applause was saved for the finale, with the models in Moschino classics, among them a ballgown and a sari, all made from a sky blue fabric printed with white clouds. Each wore white wings as the soundtrack played *Heaven Must Be Missing An Angel*.

Surgeon's sacked mistress loses case

By RICHARD DUCE

THE mistress of a surgeon who claimed she was sacked as his personal assistant because his wife discovered their affair lost her unfair dismissal claim yesterday.

An industrial tribunal rejected the claim of Lorraine Moore, 46, that the surgeon, John Nicholls, 48, orchestrated her dismissal after confessing the three-year affair to his wife Stella.

Mrs Moore, of South Kensington, west London, alleged that she was sacked from her £26,000-a-year post at St Mark's teaching hospital in the City because Mr Nicholls's wife demanded she be removed from his life. However, the tribunal in Stratford, east London, accepted that Mrs Moore was sacked after a disciplinary hearing because complaints had been made about her work, including one of a racist remark made against a colleague.

Mr Nicholls, dean of the hospital and a specialist in bowel disorders, yesterday denied the affair had anything to do with the decision to sack Mrs Moore, a divorcee.

Paul Dean, for the hospital, in City Road, Clerkenwell, said: "The fact of the affair was not one of the reasons for the dismissal." Mrs Moore had claimed unfair dismissal against the hospital and Hackney District Health Authority. She had earlier dropped a claim of sexual discrimination.

Boyfriend named in hunt for woman's killer

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE body of a 24-year-old woman was found on a wooded hillside at a Berkshire beauty spot yesterday after a 48-hour police search.

Phaedra Walker, a care assistant from Cookham, Berkshire, who is believed to have been strangled, disappeared after leaving home to meet a former boyfriend. Last night detectives said they urgently wanted to interview Brian Cuthbertson, 24, with whom Miss Walker used to live. Mr Cuthbertson, a carpet fitter, is believed to have driven Miss Walker's red MG Metro to Gloucester Road Tube station in London on Saturday, where it was recovered by police.

Miss Walker, who lived with her parents in Cookham, had not been seen since Saturday morning when she set off

to meet Mr Cuthbertson at 9am. Her body was discovered on the hillside above Cookham Dean.

The couple were thought to have met on the outskirts of Maidenhead after Mr Cuthbertson's Ford Escort broke down and he used a green mountain bike to complete the journey.

The couple lived together for several years in Booker, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, but Mr Cuthbertson moved to Ascot after the couple broke up earlier this year.

He was arrested in February after allegedly driving off from a crash in which a pedestrian aged 74 was killed. Mr Cuthbertson was charged with causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop after an accident and drink-driving.



Brian Cuthbertson: car found in London



Phaedra Walker: dead on hillside

Police step up hunt for serial sex attacker

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN who attacked three women in two hours at the weekend has been linked to sexual assaults on eight Roman Catholic schoolgirls in the past month. After the three latest attacks in which one victim was raped at knife-point, police in east Leeds have issued a warning to women: not to walk home alone.

Detective Inspector Roy Kent, who is leading the hunt, said: "These assaults are getting more serious. He could strike again and on the next occasion he could use the knife. He is a sex maniac who must be found."

Last weekend's attacker, who has been dubbed "the hippie rapist", because he wears 60s-style flared trousers and a kaftan, is believed to be the man responsible for eight attacks between 6 and 27 February, on schoolgirls from Mount St Mary's Roman Catholic High School in the Killingbeck district.

A man of a similar description sexually assaulted the girls aged 15 and 14 as they walked to and from school or waited at bus stops. Each of the victims told detectives in the incident room in Killingbeck police station that their attacker looked like something out of the 1960s.

He had a wispy beard and dirty sandy coloured shoulder-length hair. He is 5ft 8in tall, in his mid-20s, with a sunken face and staring eyes. Mr Kent said: "Women should walk in pairs and keep to well-lit areas."

Starr brings laughter to trial of his gardener

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE comedian Freddie Starr reduced a court to laughter yesterday as he joked with lawyers while giving evidence against his former gardener, who is accused of stealing more than £40,000 of jewellery from Mr Starr and his former wife, Sandra.

Robin Coxhead, 44, from Reading, Berkshire, who was employed by the Starrs at their home in Berkshire, claims that the jewellery was given to him by the comedian in return for sexual favours.

Mr Starr rejected the claim as he was cross-examined at Reading Crown Court yesterday. He said: "It's totally and utterly despicable and that's why I'm in court now. I've come down here to defend myself against people who do this to people in the public eye."

Mr Coxhead denies three charges of theft between

1990 and 1994 relating to items including watches, bracelets, diamond rings and a pendant necklace. Mr Starr said he had given Mr Coxhead £5,000 after an incident in which the gardener had been mugged but said there had been no other gifts. He knew Mr Coxhead was homosexual but thought of him as a close family friend.

The jury laughed as he told how he bought one of the watches while he was playing the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas, adding: "It's where Elvis Presley used to play." Laughter broke out again when he described an occasion when he tried to outdo Englebert Humperdink by wearing two watches and a large number of rings, some of which he said he had lost.

Paul Reid, for the prosecution, said the theft had emerged after the Starrs

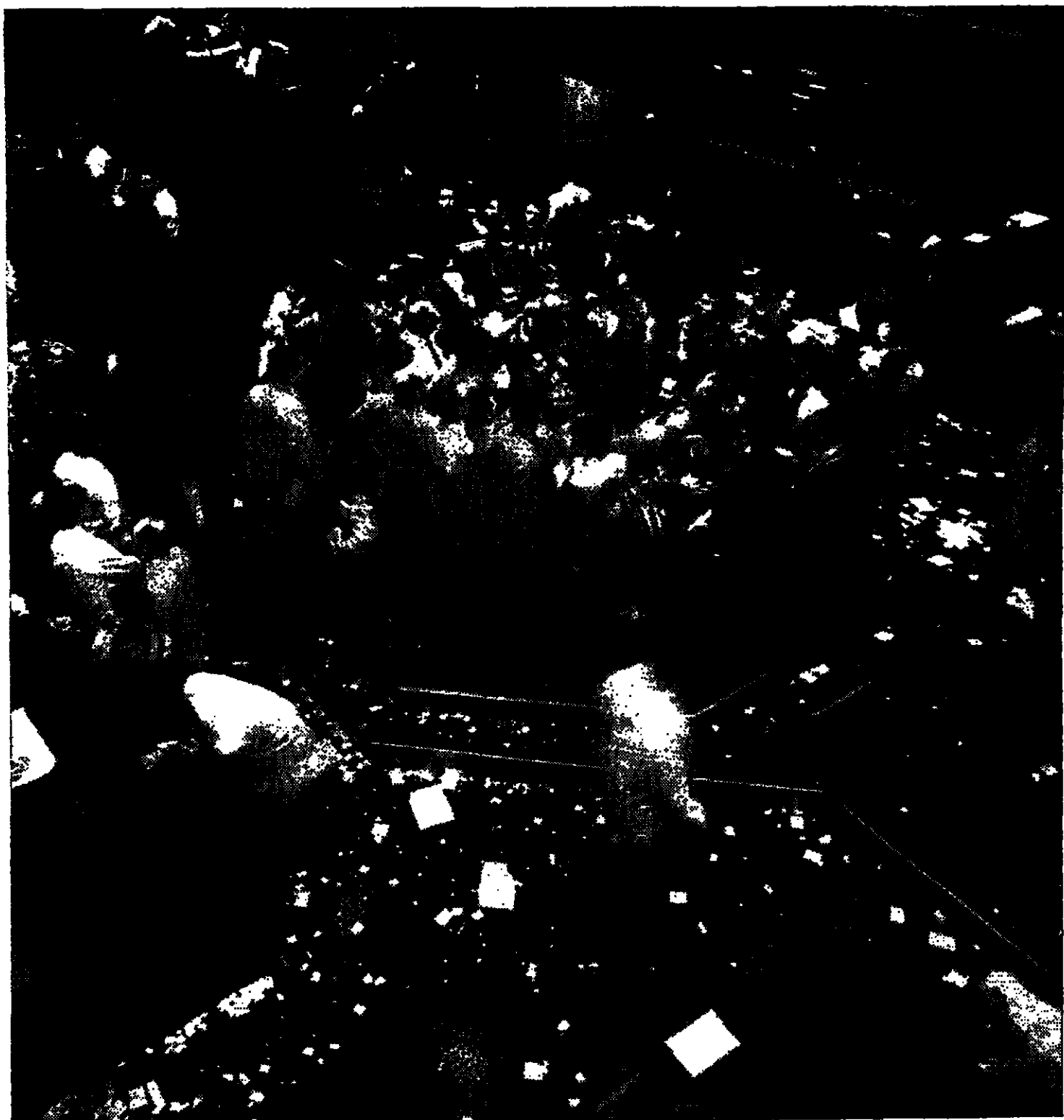
returned to their home from holiday in February last year, during which time Mr Coxhead had been looking after the house. Mr Starr said: "When I came in I thanked Robin for looking after the dogs and parrots — not hamsters."

Mr Reid said Mr Coxhead told police that he did have some jewellery but claimed it was given to him over several years by Mr Starr in return for sexual favours. Mr Starr accused Richard Kovalevsky, for the defence, of trying to blacken his character.

Mr Starr said he had been on good terms with his former wife, from whom he is now divorced, until lawyers became involved. Mr Kovalevsky said: "They [lawyers] are terrible people." Mr Starr replied: "You can say that again — and very expensive as well." The trial continues.

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Children in abuse case meet parents they do not know

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

SEVEN children kept in care over an alleged sex abuse case met their parents yesterday, three of them for the first time in five years. Some of the children, who were babies when they were taken into care, have no memories of their parents.

Eight children were taken from their parents five years ago after allegations of ritual sex abuse, sadism and torture in Ayrshire. A week ago three judges ruled that the children, now aged between five and 15, should never have been taken from their homes.

One child, a girl of 15 who has had contact with her parents throughout, returned home immediately but the judges ruled that the other children's return should be more gradual to minimise the trauma.

The meetings are being monitored by two curators: a psychologist and a psychiatrist. They will judge how much access the parents should have to their children before they return home. They will report back to the Court of Session in Edinburgh on March 21 and, assuming the reunions have gone well, the

children will then be allowed to return home. The three Court of Session judges will base their decision on the children's future on the curators' reports but have already ruled that the children should be returned home "as soon as possible". All seven children still in care are likely to be returned to their homes in a fortnight's time.

Lord Hope, the Lord President, said yesterday that the court was pleased with the full reports they had received updating them on the situation, although another hearing was needed.

Paul Burns, the parents' lawyer, said: "Everything is now in the hands of the curators." He said reports that the children did not want to see their parents were "neither significant nor surprising". He blamed them on Strathclyde social work department, which has been severely criticised by the courts for its role in the affair.

Mary Hartmoll, director of social work at Strathclyde Region, said the fears were normal because the children did not know their parents properly and did not want to

leave the special unit where they lived for another home.

Dr Malcolm Hill, of Glasgow University's centre for the study of the child and society, said much would depend on whether the children's memories of their parents had been kept alive by their brothers and sisters or their carers. Their successful reintegration will depend to some extent on whether they have positive or negative attitudes towards their parents.

The reintroductions will have to be handled gradually and sensitively and they will need individual support for some time to come.

"Obviously a degree of continuity would help but that may be difficult. The children may find themselves changing schools and friends and having to adjust to new situations on several fronts at the same time. In these circumstances, if there is hostility towards the carers, then continuity might be difficult."

Mr Burns said the issue of compensation for the families would be dealt with in the future. "At this stage we are simply concentrating on getting the families together."



Judy Garland takes centre stage in the 1954 musical film version of *A Star Is Born*, which Sir Andrew is to produce as a West End show

A show is born from the Garland classic

By Alexandra Freen, Media Correspondent

SIR ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER is to bring the classic Judy Garland film *A Star Is Born* to the West End and Broadway in its first stage production. The composer secured the rights to the stage version from Warner Brothers at the weekend. A spokesman for Sir Andrew's

company, the Really Useful Group, said yesterday that he intended to act as producer and would not be writing any new songs for the show. "He thinks that Harold Arlen's original score is wonderful and that he could not hope to compete with songs like *The Man that Got Away*."

A Star Is Born is likely to open within 18 months to two years. Although Sir Andrew wants it to be

staged first in London, availability of theatres may result in it being premiered in New York.

Casting has not yet begun, but Sir Andrew is hoping that Garland's role will be taken by a relative newcomer, while the part played in the 1954 film by James Mason will go to an established artist.

Garland, who used *A Star Is Born* to stage one of her many comebacks,

gave one of her best screen performances in the film, which tells the story of a young actress whose career is taking off and an ageing actor on the skids.

□ The hit musical *Five Guys Named Moe*, is to return to the West End because of a strong demand for tickets. The show, which closed on Saturday, will open in the summer at a theatre to be announced.

Navy officer stole to pay for love trip

A MARRIED warrant officer who ran the Royal Navy's £9 million travel budget abused his position to fund a trip to the West Indies in pursuit of his lover, a court martial was told yesterday.

Christopher Chiswell, 46, a father of three, from Ivybridge, Devon, was jailed for six months and dismissed the service after admitting theft.

Chiswell, a senior rating with 31 years' "exemplary" service, used naval funds to pay for his £1,000 return flight to Trinidad last year, claiming he was going on business, the hearing at Portsmouth was told. He spent five weeks with his lover, leaving his wife at home.

Three killed as joyrider crashes

By Robin Young

A BOY of 16 who took his mother's car without permission killed himself and two others in a head-on crash. Carl Edwards' victims were the young mother driving the car with which he collided, and an 11-year-old friend, one of four he had taken for a ride in his mother's Peugeot 106.

Edwards, who was too young to hold a driving licence, drove at over 60mph through a narrow village street with a 30mph limit and collided with a car being driven at about 20mph by Leanne Davies, 21, the mother of a three-year-old boy, Thomas. It took firemen nearly two hours to cut the three dead and four seriously injured from the wreckage.

Edwards, of Croeserw, West

Glamorgan, was accompanied by his brother Robbie, 10, Robert Evans and Lisa Howells, both 16, and Roy Davies, 11, who was also killed. They collided with Miss Davies's Ford Fiesta four miles from Edwards' home.

in the village of Nantyffylon on Sunday night. Christopher Jones, 24, Miss Davies' boyfriend who was in her car, and Robbie Edwards were both critically ill on life-support machines in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.



Killed: Leanne Davies



Orphaned: Thomas Davies

yesterday with head and chest injuries.

Robert Evans and Lisa Howells were also in the hospital, both described as "stable" with broken thighs and hips.

Miss Davies, of Garth, Maesteg, was on a night out with her boyfriend and had left her son with her parents.

Detective Inspector John Adley said the car was taken without permission. "It is yet another incident to add to the catalogue of horrific crashes because of a young person driving without a licence." He appealed for witnesses.

PC Neil Youden, who was the first at the scene, said: "It is absolutely terrible to see young lives lost in this way. It was like a scene from your worst nightmare — just carnage, blood and bodies."

Howard revives offender tagging

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A SCHEME to fit offenders given curfew orders with electronic tags is to be started in June, the Home Office announced yesterday.

The nine-month experiment had been due to begin in three areas last December, but is understood to have been delayed because of a lack of interest from private-sector firms and high bids from contractors.

Offenders over 16 who have a curfew order imposed on them by magistrates will wear an electronic tag on their wrist or leg, which will transmit a signal to a receiver linked to a central computer. This will alert an operator if the offend-

er breaks the curfew. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, told MPs in a written Commons answer that the £1.4 million trials will begin in Manchester, Norfolk and Reading.

During the trials, the courts will be able to give a curfew order to an offender for a minimum of two hours and a maximum of 12 hours a day, for up to six months. It can be imposed in combination with other community sentences.

Tagging was tested five years ago on 50 people on bail. The equipment broke down regularly and 29 offenders violated their curfew or were charged with a new offence.

Woman in wrongful arrest wins £12,000

By Lin Jenkins

A PREGNANT woman who was arrested in an armed police raid on her home and taken from the house at gunpoint wearing a dressing gown and carrying her young daughter has been awarded £12,000 compensation.

In an operation that West Midlands Police admitted was based on information which proved "unsubstantiated and unreliable", her husband and a friend were also arrested at gunpoint when they returned to the house. They were awarded £15,000 and £10,000 each. Ron Hadfield, Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, in a statement to Birmingham County Court yesterday, apologised to the three. The statement read to Judge David Wilcock said that Mr Hadfield "wishes to express his regret unreservedly for the ordeal they have each been through". It said that the three were "persons of good character and are entirely without previous convictions".

Police accused them of having a sub-machinegun and a sawn-off shotgun in the house and believed one man had been part of a gang planning an armed robbery. The information being acted upon one morning in July 1991 was thought at the time to be reliable and therefore police acted quickly in view of the potential danger to people in the vicinity.

Cindy Walker, 32, had been waiting for her husband, Paul, a psychiatric nurse, to return from work when the armed-response unit announced their arrival at the semi-detached home in Perry Common, Birmingham, through loudhailers. She was forced to carry her daughter, Jade, two, wrapped in a blanket. "We are still not satisfied with how this ended," she said yesterday.

Apart from the apology from the police we still need to know the truth. Mr Walker, 32, the son of a police officer whose sister is also in the force, was held for ten hours after his arrest. He said: "I am satisfied with the result, but I wish it was a sincere and heartfelt apology. We had to go to court to get it."

Quentin Blackmore, 35, who has since moved to Wales, said after the hearing that he wanted to put his arrest and seven-hour detention behind him. "It could have been resolved a long time ago. The police acted in an appalling and cavalier manner."

Loss of giant ore-carrier in storm to be reassessed

By Paul Wilkinson and Ronald Fair

INVESTIGATORS are to re-examine the loss of the giant ore-carrier *Derbyshire*, which sank with all hands in a typhoon off Japan 15 years ago. It is the largest British-registered ship to be lost at sea.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton, who conducted the inquiry into the foundering on Shetland rocks of the tanker *Braer*, has been asked to head a team to examine whether it is worth holding a fresh public inquiry into the sinking, which claimed 44 lives.

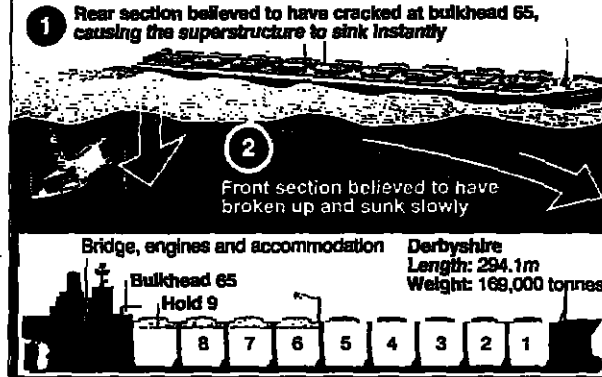
Relatives of the victims, who believe design faults led to catastrophic cracking of the hull, say they are disappointed by the decision of Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, not to order an immediate fresh public inquiry despite new evidence that contradicted the official opinion that the 169,000-tonne vessel had been overwhelmed by enormous seas. A 1987 public inquiry concluded that the disaster had been caused by "adverse weather conditions". Lord Donaldson, a former Master of the Rolls, will assess what further work might be undertaken to determine the cause, how much it would cost and its future value to British shipping.

Marion Bayliss, 57, from Corby, Northamptonshire, the secretary of the Derbyshire Families Association, said: "How can they quibble about the cost of an inquiry like this? It is 15 years since the tragedy and we are no closer to finding out what happened." Her husband, Curly, 42, was the *Derbyshire*'s chief officer. She added: "There were 44 people on that ship but they weren't just people, they were fathers, husbands, sons, wives and sisters. Since 1971, 88 bulk carriers have gone down with the loss of 2,000 lives. Last year alone 19 sank."

Paul Lambert, whose brother, Peter, was lost, said: "We want the first public inquiry to be deemed invalid and its findings unsafe. We want a return to the wreckage site to complete the investigation and we want a fresh public inquiry."

Supporters of the families have already provided fresh evidence to indicate that serious construction flaws led to a crack developing between the cargo holds and the rear section of the ship containing the accommodation and controls. They believe that, in the force-12 conditions of Typhoon Orchid, the stern snapped off and sank almost instantly.

HOW THE DERBYSHIRE MIGHT HAVE SUNK



Similar cracks developed on other ships of the class built in the 1970s by Swan Hunter on Tyneside. The most notable was the *Kowloon Bridge*, which broke up off the Irish coast at Bantry Bay in 1987.

Last June, an expedition funded by the International Transport Workers' Federation located the *Derbyshire* lying on the seabed at a depth of two-and-a-half miles. Pictures from remote cameras indicated a break-up of the ship before sinking.

In a Channel 4 documentary to be shown tomorrow night, Dr Dan Khoushy, maritime consultant to the Bibby Line owners at the 1987 inquiry, says: "It is very possible that the ship was lost due to massive structural collapse. It is now very necessary a new expedition is mounted to pinpoint the cause of the loss. We owe it as a debt of honour to those who died."

Margot Norman, page 15

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Council approves secure housing for anti-social tenants

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A HIGH-SECURITY housing scheme designed to turn anti-social families into model neighbours has been approved despite fears that the properties will become a ghetto for problem families.

The £1 million scheme involves putting up a 6ft perimeter fence round a tenement block in Dundee, introducing a night-time curfew and installing reinforced glass. The proposed block has been called "mini-Colditz" by local residents, who have gathered 2,000 signatures in protest.

The three-storey block of flats chosen by the council is to have four cameras to monitor those entering and leaving the properties. The so-called suitcase families living there will have become homeless by breaching tenancy agreements. They will be supervised 24 hours a day by counsellors who will sleep on the premises, and tenants will have to guarantee to abide by a code of conduct.

Yesterday, the housing committee of Tayside Regional Council, which is Labour-controlled, backed the scheme. It already has the support of Dundee District Council and NCH Action for Children, the children's charity. The Scottish Office is funding 75 per cent of the cost over four years. The scheme, expected to be in operation by the end of the year, is believed to be the

first of its kind in Britain. Colin Flinn, of NCH, says: "The idea is to give families a second chance and to try to break the cycle of homelessness. None of the families housed in the block will be currently anti-social."

Mr Flinn said the perimeter fencing was designed to protect children in the play area from traffic. The reinforced glass in the ground floor would be for security. The curfew would help to provide discipline and security, and cameras were standard in such projects.

The council voted to set up a project advisory committee of 16 members, 12 of whom would represent community interests. They will be able to discuss how the scheme is run.

Opponents plan to appeal to a full meeting of Dundee District Council. The city has a reputation as one of the country's most radical councils when dealing with problem families. The council is also looking at plans to evict anti-social tenants quickly.

It recently submitted proposals to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities that would allow it to take eviction powers from sheriffs and give them to tribunals, abolish the statutory notice to evict and give the council the final say over evictions. The council has evicted 30 tenants in the past two years and has legal action pending against 170. The new

proposals have been criticised by the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties.

The problem of stamping out anti-social behaviour on housing estates is now being tackled in two ways (Ian Murray writes). The most common is through a system of neighbourhood watches, backed by professional witnesses. The second, as with Dundee, is to impose good-behaviour conditions on tenants.

The pioneer of a sophisticated neighbourhood watch scheme was Sedgefield. For 18 months the council has employed 11 uniformed ex-police men equipped with six vehicles and two-way radios who patrol and respond to emergency calls from the public. The crime rate in the district has dropped by 20 per cent in a year.

Many councils, from Sunderland in the North to Southwark in London, now employ professional witnesses, either from their own staff or from private agencies, who collect evidence to bring troublemakers to court. A high proportion of residents are frightened to give evidence against their neighbours so the professional witness is the only way in which a council can seek an eviction order.

Housing associations vet prospective tenants increasingly thoroughly before granting a lease.



Robert Steel, 74, relaxes in the sun in London yesterday before starting a 4,444-mile sponsored walk round the perimeter of Britain to mark the National Trust's centenary. He hopes to raise £150,000 for coasts and countryside conservation

Scots fare worst in battle with tobacco

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

SCOTTISH women have the highest death rates in the world from smoking, according to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Figures from the fund published today also show that the Scots are 50 per cent more likely to be killed by tobacco in middle age than the English. Among women the death rates are 66 per cent higher than in England and among men 33 per cent higher.

However, other figures show that the Scots are no more likely to take up smoking than the English. A survey by the Health Education Authority shows that southerners are more likely to try smoking than northerners, but they are better at giving up the habit.

While almost 75 per cent of both Scots and English have smoked at some point, only 30 per cent of the English are current smokers, compared with 39 per cent of Scots.

The findings suggest that smokers face greater difficulties in giving up the habit in Scotland and the North, which may provide the key to regional differences in smoking rates. The survey results showed little evidence of a North-South divide in smokers' desire to quit.

Dr Robert West, reader in psychology at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, and author of the report, said: "It is not the case that people in the North and Scotland are more likely to take up smoking. But people in the South are more likely to give up."

The survey report, *Escape from the Nicotine Trap*, published to coincide with No Smoking Day tomorrow, found that groups among whom smoking was highest had the lowest rates of giving up. Dr West said: "It is more difficult to give up when those around you are smoking. It is a bit of a vicious circle. If you live in a group or region where there is a high number of smokers it will make it more difficult to give up."

Mormons spend £14m on farmland

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE Mormon Church has spent about £14 million on buying nearly 9,000 acres of prime arable farmland in south-east England, its first big investment in agriculture outside North and South America.

Church officials began their buying spree last August with the £6.5 million purchase from the BBC's pension fund of three farms in Cambridgeshire occupying a total of 3,748 acres.

The church has since acquired three more farms — from the Kneetworth Benson Farmland Trust — for a similar sum. The land is at Steadford in Lincolnshire (1,385 acres), at Wiggan-hall in Norfolk (1,492 acres) and at Saxmund-ham in Suffolk (2,282 acres).

Philip Wheeler, the church's controller in charge of farming, said: "We plan to run the farms as commercial enterprises, either putting in our own managers or using the tenant farmers already in place. There is no question of using the land to set up communes or anything of that kind."

Income from the land, which is expected to amount to between £100 and £150 an acre, will be used to fund the church's welfare system. This provides unemployment benefit and other assistance to members who fall on hard times in return for them undertaking "work assignments" in the community.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith, a New England farmhand, and came to Britain in 1837. Its worldwide following is now almost 9 million.

Minister pledges £2.5m for new Paolozzi gallery

By Our Scotland Correspondent

THE Government is to give £2.5 million to a controversial new art gallery devoted to the works of the sculptor Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. The Paolozzi Gallery, dubbed "the ultimate ego trip" by critics, will be sited in Sir Eduardo's native city of Edinburgh. Sir Eduardo has offered to donate a large part of his collection

and the contents of his London studio to the gallery, but plans for a Paolozzi gallery have been attacked by critics who believe that he does not merit such an honour.

The gallery will be sited in the Dean Centre, close to Edinburgh's National Gallery of Modern Art, and should be open to the public in 18 months. The magnificent building, which was once the city orphanage, has been empty for several years. It will be donated by

Lothian Regional Council to the National Galleries of Scotland for a peppercorn rent. Yesterday Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, gave his backing to the scheme and pledged the money needed for the conversion of the Dean Centre.

Critics of the scheme, including the art critic Brian Sewell, say Paolozzi's work does not justify a gallery of its own. Describing Paolozzi as "a second-rate artist", Mr Sewell says:

"At best a Paolozzi gallery would be a bore." Sir Eduardo, the son of Italian ice-cream merchants, intends to spend some time working in the reconstructed studio in the gallery and will give lectures.

Large sculptures will be placed in the grounds around the building. He is enthusiastic about the project, saying it will give the public a chance to appreciate the mind of an artist and understand how things are made.

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Membership Rewards

Rise in lone households adds to housing demand

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA 4.4 million houses and flats will be needed in England over the next 20 years for the rapidly growing number of people who want a home of their own, according to Environment Department statistics. About 500,000 of those will be required for up to a million migrants, mostly from other EU countries, who are expected to settle in England over that period.

The effect of immigration will be felt most in London, which the predictions show will become a larger, more cosmopolitan city. Although 1.04 million people will move out by 2011, some 690,000 international migrants will settle there. Since London births are expected to exceed deaths over the period by 831,000, the capital's population should rise from 6.9 million to 7.4 million.

The total of 23.6 million

households needed by 2016 in England is considerably higher than Environment Department estimates made only three years ago and means that the housing stock will have to grow by almost a quarter if homelessness is not to surge. Planners will have to balance the conflicting demands of environmental protection and developers.

In contrast to the 1992 official estimates, the population is now expected to grow by 3.2 million instead of 2.4 million between 1991 and 2011, with migrants making up 850,000 of the increase. Social trends, however, mean that the need for housing is growing faster than the population. Longer life expectancy, a higher divorce rate and an increasing propensity of people to live on their own are all factors.

While the population in England is expected to rise

only by 3.6 million up to 2016, the number of households will increase by 4.4 million over the same period. Half of the extra homes are required for the larger population. About one property in three will go to a single person and one in five will be needed for the growing number of pensioners.

For the first time since the household projections were started in 1969, cohabiting couples have been included as a separate category. There are 10.5 million married couple households at present, compared with 1.2 million cohabiting couples. By 2011, however, only 141,000 couples in the under 25 age group are expected to be married compared with 216,000 who will be living together. Almost a half of couples under 30 will be cohabiting, compared with just over a third at present.

Single-parent households

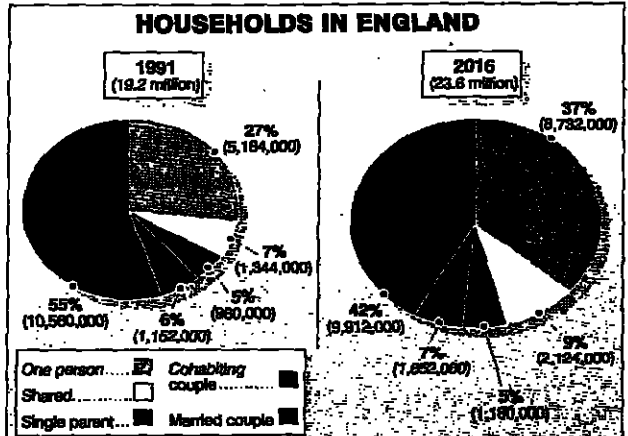
are also expected to grow from 981,000 in 1991 to 1.26 million in 2011. However, the largest increase of all will be in the number of people living alone. That is especially marked among men and highlights the growing number of male divorcees who never find another partner. In the 30-34 age group, 54 per cent of men are expected to be living on their own compared with 37 per cent of women. The proportion of women living on their own increases steadily as they get older.

Overall, the number of households should grow by 23 per cent nationally. However, the increase is likely to be 29 per cent in the South West and East Anglia, where many pensioners move on retirement.

The figures showing the demand for nearly a quarter more homes by 2016 were described as "extremely disturbing" by the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Tony Burton, the council's planning expert, said a rural area the size of Bristol (27,000 acres) was already being lost annually in England to housing development.

These new projections... must not be allowed to dominate as they do at present. Planners need to work out the capacity of the environment to absorb housing rather than focus solely on the capacity of housing.

Projections of Households in England to 2016 (Stationary Office, £45)



- The average size of households, which stood at 2.47 in 1991, is projected to fall to 2.17 by 2016.
- The number of one-person households will grow from 5.1 million to 8.6 million by 2016.
- Household growth in the North of England will be 18 per cent, in the Midlands 22 per cent, and in the South 26.
- Divorces among women aged 60-74 will soar from 5.4 per cent to 15.3 per cent by 2011.



Sergeant White arriving at the tribunal, which is expected to last three weeks

Doctor is accused of killing

A junior hospital doctor was sent for trial yesterday, accused of the manslaughter of a patient. Dr Yin Yin Teoh, 25, who comes from Malaysia, was accused of the unlawful killing of Samuel Beers, 36, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, in February 1994.

The doctor was sent for trial at Belfast Crown Court by the city's magistrates, who released her on bail of £100.

Mr Beers, from Newtownards, Co Down, is understood to have died after penicillin was accidentally injected into his brain instead of his hand. His widow Natalie was in court with her eldest son Jason, 15.

Mother's victory

A woman has won £15,000 compensation after being chosen for redundancy from a 64Q store in Colchester because caring for her handicapped child was said to affect her work. Laura Hambrook, 27, accepted the award on the eve of a tribunal hearing of her claim for sex discrimination and unfair dismissal.

Prison death

John Santacrose, 37, a remand prisoner from Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, bled to death after cutting a wrist in Swansea Prison yesterday hours before a court appearance on charges of rape, threatening to kill and indecent assault.

Libel damages

Jim Allen, author of *Perdition*, has accepted libel damages from Max Hastings, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne and Geoffrey Wheatcroft of *The Sunday Telegraph* and its publisher over an article saying the play was meant to offend Jews.

Trust fined

Frenchay Healthcare NHS Trust was fined £15,000 by Bristol magistrates over the death of Reginald Newport, an 81-year-old patient at Blackberry Hill Hospital, Bristol, who fell from his bed on to a hot radiator pipe.

Football booty

Birmingham City Football Club's playing staff had dozens of pairs of boots stolen in a break-in at their ground while the first team was playing at Hull City on Saturday. The boots are worth £4,000. The club is offering a £500 reward.

Last payment

A cheque paying for the last weekend Ruth Ellis and her lover David Blakely spent at the Oaklands Hotel, Chester, is to be auctioned at Sotheby's on March 30. She killed him in 1955 and was the last woman hanged in Britain.

Police 'terrified' of sex bias claims

A POLICE sergeant's wife left him after a probationary woman officer made bogus sexual discrimination claims against him, he told an industrial tribunal yesterday. Sergeant Les White's wife of 21 years refused to believe her husband was telling the truth.

The 47-year-old officer's marriage ended soon after WPC Maureen McGinley claimed he had spread lies about her, calling her a "dangerous woman" and "an imposing feminist". When Sergeant White, a policeman for 23 years, denied the claims, he said he was told by senior officers that he had to apologise because "you can't hope to win against a woman these days". WPC McGinley was later awarded compensation and Sergeant White was transferred, against his will, from West End Central in London.

Christopher Frere-Smith, representing the sergeant, said the police were "terrified" of bad publicity involving

sexual discrimination claims by women officers. He told the tribunal at Woburn Place, central London: "The sole purpose was to sweep this case under the carpet regardless of the cost it would entail to Sergeant White."

Sergeant White said he was given the task of taking WPC McGinley under his wing when she arrived from training college at Hendon.

He is alleged to have told other officers that she had a reputation as "a dangerous woman". He said: "I also said she was inclined to express her extreme views on people whether they wanted to hear them or not."

After being ordered to explain his remarks to senior officers, he was transferred to Marylebone in August last year. He is claiming sexual discrimination against the Metropolitan Police on the ground that he was not given adequate chance to defend himself against the allegations. The hearing continues.

Legal aide pocketed £75,000 in court fines

A SENIOR courts' administrator who took more than £75,000 in criminal fines to help to pay the fees at his daughter's school was jailed for three years yesterday by Chichester Crown Court. Jeffrey Slater, 38, who organised the payments system at three courts in Redhill, Dorking and Oxted in south-east Surrey, admitted five sample charges of theft totalling £75,902. Judge Wrinmore told Slater: "This was a grave breach of trust and calculated fraud."

The court was told how Slater, of Reigate, had taken the money over a four-year period while in charge of court expenditure. Richard Soanes, for the prosecution, said: "Petty criminals paying their fines and expecting them to go into the public purse did not realise they were going into the pocket of a court official."

The thefts, of between £300 and £400 a week, went undisclosed for four years because Slater had devised the courts' accounting system. He covered his tracks by delaying payments, such as costs, to the Crown Prosecution Service and the police.

Mr Soanes added: "It was his belief that the CPS and police would have such trust in the smooth workings and reliability of the magistrates' courts that they would not make checks. They were soft targets."

Alan Bayliss, for the defence, said Slater had marriage problems and was running into debt. He was, in effect, doubling his salary, but he needed the money to pay his daughter's school fees.

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The moment victory was in sight

In Napoleon's steps across the Rhine

ONE of the best known images of the Second World War is that of the twin Gothic towers of Cologne Cathedral standing miraculously intact above the surrounding rubble. By the time American tanks and infantry entered the great Rhineland city on March 6, 1945, three quarters of the buildings were in ruins and only 150,000 people were still living there, compared with a pre-war population of more than one million.

In contrast to the speed of the advance through France and Belgium, it had taken almost six months of bitter fighting since the British and the Americans reached Nijmegen in September for the Allies to complete a 100-mile front facing the Rhine. In hardship, frustration and casualties the campaign had been likened to those of the First World War.

With the invasion forces now at last poised for the push into the German heartland, Hitler had given orders that every one of the bridges over the Rhine must be blown before it fell into Allied hands. But on March 7, the day after the capture of Cologne, a United States Army second lieutenant, Emmett J. Burrows, emerged from the woods above the town of

■ In our series marking the 50th anniversary of the Second World War John Young recalls a vital bridgehead

Remagen, some 30 miles south, to be met with the sight of German troops fleeing across the still intact Ludendorff railway bridge.

The news was conveyed to a delighted General Omar N. Bradley, commanding the US 12th Army Group, and by 4pm that day the 9th Armoured division had reached the bridge. In an act of heroism, Lieutenant John Mitchell, of Pittsburgh, climbed down the structure, found the explosive charges that had failed to ignite, and disconnected the detonators.

American troops, shouting as they went, surged across the bridge, and Sergeant Alex Drabik, of Ohio, had the distinction of being the first invader to cross the Rhine into Germany since Napoleon. By nightfall 8,000 men had crossed to form a bridgehead.

Despite repeated German counter-attacks, including a rocket strike, the bridge was not finally destroyed until March 17, by which time two temporary structures had

been built and four divisions were dug in on the east bank. The German major whose task it had been to blow the bridge was shot on the personal orders of Hitler.

In a rage Hitler also dismissed, for the second time, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt as commander-in-chief of the German army in the west. The immensely experienced von Rundstedt had led the invasion of France in 1940 but had been blamed for losing the Battle of Normandy four years later and sacked for daring to ask the Führer how he imagined Germany could still win the war.

It had taken only two months for him to be reinstated, but this time the break was final. "He is finished," Hitler declared. "I don't want to hear any more about him."



Dame Vera yesterday: "We must not forget what they did for us. They are elderly and they need help"

Vera Lynn in cash plea for wartime survivors

DAME VERA LYNN, the wartime "forces' sweetheart", launched a nationwide campaign yesterday to draw attention to the hardships still being suffered by many of the survivors of her generation (John Young writes).

The Queen and other members of the Royal Family will play a part in this year's programme of events, entitled *Tribute and Promise*, to remind those who have lived through half a century of peace what it owes to those who fought for it. Dame Vera said many people who served in the war were now in need or simply lonely. They included civilians who worked in factories, on buses and in the fire brigade.

"We must not forget what they did for us," she said. "They are elderly and they need the help they are not getting but are entitled to." Organisers hope to enlist the support of children and have suggested a 50p individual contribution. "A penny for each year of peace. It's not much to ask," she added.

War anniversary stirs resentment

FROM ROGER BOYES IN REMAGEN

FOUR blackened towers on the banks of the Rhine are the last trace of the battle for Remagen Bridge. Today, 50 years after American troops breached Germany's last natural defence in the West, Americans, Germans and Belgians will gather to remember the dead.

Until now, the Remagen anniversary has been regarded as one of the least controversial of this year's wartime landmarks. Two turrets have been converted into a museum, partly outlining the history of the bridge — built in the First World War for supplying the Western Front — and partly staging an exhibition dedicated to "world peace".

The Americans celebrated the capture of the bridge as a great military triumph and the Germans have broadly accepted their version of history. Yet a new variant is being introduced: Germans as victims. After the US victory, Germans in the Rhineland surrendered en masse. Between April and July 1945 some 260,000 German prisoners of war were held under American guard in the boggy fields between Remagen and

Sinzig. They were kept in the open air and their daily ration was one potato, a biscuit, a spoonful of vegetables and some water. Racked by disease, at least 1,200 died, according to German records.

Rhinelanders have kept these memories alive but have rarely spoken openly about their resentment. Now, with the self-confidence of the new united Germany, the former prisoners have been voicing their anger. As the dignitaries speak today, crowds will gather elsewhere: at the Remagen Chapel of the Black Madonna where families of the German prisoners mourn their dead; flowers will also be laid at a war monument in Sinzig.

Re-establishing Germans as the victims rather than the perpetrators of war has for Bonn been the quiet sub-text of this year's anniversaries. The political logic is plain: Germany is now projecting itself not as a military loser but rather as one of the victors of the Cold War. The fact that Germans also suffered in wartime is being presented as one of the elements linking modern Germany with its former enemies.

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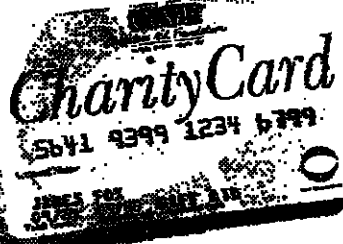
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Labour is in a muddle of its own making over regional assemblies

Labour has only got itself to blame for stories about party disarray over its proposals for regional assemblies in England. There is no real difference between what Tony Blair and John Prescott were saying over the weekend. But the confusing impression that has been created is not a Tory or a press invention. The party is in a muddle about regional government. The Tories have been given their first real opportunity for more than a month to counter-attack. John Major can feel content that his speech on Saturday helped to create headlines about Labour splits which lasted for two days, or news cycles as

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

the media advisers now call them. The promise to set up regional assemblies in England has always been for mixed motives. English assemblies have been seen as a necessary constitutional counterpoint to the party's firm pledges to set up a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly. If there was just devolution there, there would be the anomalous position (the West Lothian question) that Scottish and Welsh MPs would be able to vote on some English issues such as health and education when they

could not vote on these matters affecting their own constituents. But if there was also devolution in England, all members of the Commons would be in the same position. This idea of Home Rule all around was advocated during the battles over Ireland a century ago, though it challenged traditional notions of the unitary state. Labour has never envisaged the same regional structures throughout Britain. English assemblies would not have had the tax-raising powers proposed for the Scottish Parliament. So Westminster MPs would have been in different positions. The level of demand for regional assemblies differs enormously in various

parts of England, depending on the degree of regional identity. When Scottish devolution was debated during the late 1970s, some of the strongest opposition came from northern Labour MPs concerned that their region would suffer without a comparable measure of devolution. The north is now the only region of England to favour devolution to elected assemblies, according to a recent MORI poll — apart from support in London for a strategic authority for the capital. People in other regions oppose assemblies.

After the Tory assault at the beginning of this year on the constitution, Mr Blair accepted that this was a vulnerable area of policy which would have to be rethought since there is no consensus about such assemblies. A party commission under Jack Straw is due to report in the summer. Labour policy has always involved a gradual process and the emphasis has now shifted to bringing the existing regional tier of administration under more democratic control rather than on a first blueprint for regional assemblies.

The present Government has appointed highly rated civil servants, including some possible future permanent secretaries, to run regional offices combining several Whitehall departments such as trade and industry, employment and environment. These have sizeable budgets. At present, accountability is to ministers and hence to the Commons. Labour is considering how these and other non-elected bodies and quangos might be made accountable regionally, either to elected assemblies or committees involving locally elected politicians.

The result could be a patchwork of different arrangements depending on the level of local demand. But as the shambles over the Banham commission has shown, there are often uncertainties and conflicts about what towns and cities, let alone whole regions, want. There is no reason why structures should not differ between parts of the country. Labour faces a dilemma. If it tailors its proposals in England to regional circumstances, it may avoid some of the Tory criticisms of adding a further costly and unwanted tier of government but it may in the process create constitutional contradictions. If Scotland has a tax-raising parliament, and the English regions do not, the West Lothian question will remain. There would be different categories of MPs. Labour has a long way to go to construct, let alone to sell, a politically watertight case.

PETER RIDDELL

Clarke takes softer line on prospect for referendum

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE softened his hostility to a referendum on a single currency yesterday in a move seen by Tory MPs as fresh evidence of the Cabinet closing ranks after recent turmoil over Europe.

Only weeks after saying that a single currency was a matter for Parliament not a referendum, Mr Clarke said that it was "eminently sensible" to keep open the option of holding one. In a BBC Radio interview that should help to rebuild his strained relationship with John Major, Mr Clarke said he fully supported the Prime Minister's position on a referendum as set out in his Commons speech last week. Mr Major told MPs then that it could be "necessary and desirable".

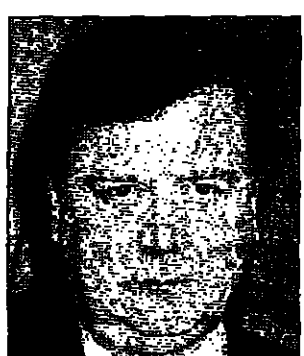
Mr Clarke said: "John Major left open the question of a referendum to the Parliament that will have to decide it, if and when we ever join economic and monetary union. I regard that as eminently sensible."

But Mr Clarke again irritated the Euro-sceptic wing of the Tory party by repeating his view that the question of whether Britain scrapped the pound in 1999 was predominantly economic and not, as critics such as the former Chancellor Norman Lamont

have argued, political and constitutional.

As tempers cooled after Mr Lamont's decision to support Labour in a vote on Europe last week, some leading Euro-sceptics said yesterday that he had "won his spurs" by openly siding with the rebels. They said that many of the Maas-tricht rebels had been reluctant to embrace Mr Lamont because of his role at the Treasury in negotiating the treaty and defending British membership of the ERM.

Even among anti-European diehards, the suspicion lingered that Mr Lamont had changed tack on Europe more out of desire for vengeance against the Prime Minister than out of political conviction.



Clarke: "sensible to keep option open"

tion. But yesterday some rightwingers claimed that Mr Lamont had now secured a base among dissident backbenchers.

His admirers said they thought he would be better placed if there was a leadership challenge in the autumn. "Norman is a wounded beast in the bush and a wounded beast is a dangerous beast," one MP said.

Michael Spicer, a leader of a septic Tory faction trying to build bridges with Mr Major, said yesterday that the Government was in a strong negotiating position as it contemplated next year's inter-governmental conference on the future of Europe. Britain could name its price for withholding its veto over the closer political integration sought by other states.

"That price should certainly be a net retrieval of power. One way to ensure that the UK is not drawn into a federal union is to amend the 1972 European Communities Act so that the ultimate supremacy of the British Parliament is guaranteed in certain fields such as taxation, health, education, the voting system, local government, industrial relations, defence, and law," Mr Spicer said in a speech at York University.



Diana Maddock: "We want equal treatment not special treatment... equality of opportunity not equality of outcome"

Lib Dems courting women's vote

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Liberal Democrats launched an equal opportunities policy yesterday that they hope will make the party a clear favourite with women voters.

Diana Maddock, the Liberal Democrat spokeswoman on women's issues, promised that the party would strive to help the "average woman" on the

street. She said: "Fifty-two per cent of the population are often silenced by the minority. We seek to shatter the systems and attitudes that dictate what men and women should and should not do, leaving them free to decide for themselves the paths they wish to follow."

The party's proposals, set out in *Equal Citizens - Promoting the Equal Treatment of Women*, range from improving childcare services and education and training for women to reforming the tax and benefits system and making public transport more accessible.

Not all the policies would cost taxpayers money. The

paper suggests that women should have a right to consult women health professionals and calls for increased visiting rights for women prisoners who have children and the reform of laws under which women are prosecuted for domestic violence.

Although only three of the 23 Liberal Democrat MPs are women, the party does not believe in women-only quotas, which have caused friction within the Labour Party, or in Emily's List, a Labour organisation that gives financial help to women seeking to become MPs. They also dismiss the idea of a ministry for women.

Mrs Maddock, who won

her Christchurch seat from the Tories in the 1993 by-election, said: "We want equal treatment for women not special treatment. Our aim is equality of opportunity not equality of outcome."

The Liberal Democrats are equally disdainful of the Tory party's approach to women, which includes advice on dress sense and grooming for parliamentary candidates and praise for party activists who excel at making jam. "The Tories are so patronising over women's issues," Mrs Maddock said. "In 15 years of government they have done nothing for the average woman."

Political odyssey around the parties

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE reaction that greeted the appointment of John Horam as the new Public Service Minister yesterday was almost as varied as the MPs' own chequered political career.

Mr Horam, who has now served in both Tory and Labour governments as well as sitting in the Commons as an SDP member, was denounced as a "dirty double rat" by his erstwhile Labour colleague Dennis Skinner. The new minister would surely have been disappointed had it been otherwise.

On the other hand, Downing Street officials went out of their way to praise a good-humoured and assured performance at the Dispatch Box by Mr Horam who, as luck would have it, found himself answering Commons questions on Civil Service matters on his first day in office.

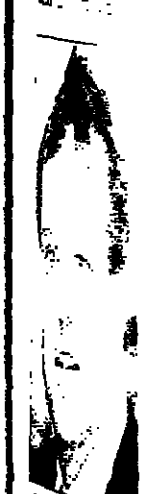
If not quite unprecedented, Mr Horam's political odyssey has been a long and unusual one, abseiling across the face of British politics from almost one extreme to the other.

He entered Parliament as a TGWU-sponsored Labour MP for Gateshead West in 1970 and was initially thought to be on the left of the party. He was under secretary of state for transport in 1974 where his boss was Bill Rodgers, one of the founders of the breakaway SDP in 1981. It came as no surprise when Mr Horam became one of the party's earliest recruits.

He next appeared on the political scene on the eve of the 1987 election campaign when he announced that he was joining the Conservatives.

Current
EMU time

Bonn envoys
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New commission to examine claims of wrongful conviction

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL HOWARD last night announced detailed plans to strengthen powers to investigate a growing number of alleged miscarriages of justice.

The Home Secretary told the Commons the work would be undertaken by a new fully independent body, the Criminal Cases Review Commission. "It will be independent, accessible and open. It will have strong investigative powers and it will be well resourced," he said.

The committee is to be set up after widespread public concern over the present system of dealing with potential miscarriages of justice, which is often lengthy and convoluted. The cases of the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four increased the pressure.

Opening the second reading debate on the Criminal Appeal Bill, which legislates for a new commission, Mr Howard refused to apologise for having waited so long to bring in the reforms. "This Bill contains the most significant changes to the structure of our criminal appeals system for almost 30 years," he said.

Implementing some of the key recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in 1993, the Bill also strengthens the powers of the courts to resolve doubtful criminal appeals. The new Commission will

examine cases in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. But the courts will continue to be responsible for determining all appeals. "This is the right approach, matters of guilt and innocence are properly for the courts to determine," Mr Howard said.

He promised that ministers would take no part in the new commission's day to day decisions and administration. Staff would be made up of legal, investigative and administrative advisers and they would have access to the knowledge, expertise and other resources of the police.

Mr Howard said: "This Bill is of the greatest importance in promoting the aim of a criminal justice system which is strong, effective and fair — in which the guilty are justly punished and the innocent have nothing to fear."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, told the House: "Labour supports this Bill and we shall give it an unopposed second reading." But he voiced serious reservations about the police being able to probe cases which were likely to involve themselves. "It would be far better if the system of investigation was independent," he said. He called for a core of investigators to be employed by the commission, or seconded to it, to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to transport ministers and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster were followed by a debate on the Criminal Appeal Bill, second reading. The Lords debated the Health Authorities Bill, second reading, the Humberside (Structural Change) Order, the North Yorkshire (District of York) (Structural and Boundary Changes) Order and the US Defence Counter-proliferation initiative.

TODAY: In the Commons, questions to employment ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a debate initiated by Labour on "the position of women in Britain", opened by Clare Short, Labour's spokeswoman on women's issues. In the Lords, peers will debate the Environment Bill, report, followed by a debate on a call to encourage the restoration of democracy in Nigeria.

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Currency problems put EMU timetable in doubt

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

IN A performance bordering on farce, the European Commission did its best yesterday to shrug off the latest devaluation of the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo, claiming that the realignment of the two currencies was "proof of the good functioning of the exchange-rate system".

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Economic Affairs Commissioner, said: "The creation of a single currency is not affected. All preparations for Economic and Monetary Union must be completed by the end of 1996."

The Commission's curiously optimistic assessment of the latest convulsions in Europe's exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) came after an emergency session of senior EU central bankers and finance ministry officials at the weekend. After a difficult meeting, they agreed in the early hours of yesterday to devalue the central ERM rate of the peseta by 7 per cent, and of the escudo by 3.5 per cent. The realignment became necessary after weeks of turbulence in the currency markets that was

exacerbated by the collapse of Barings.

The Commission claimed that the realignment would have no impact on the timetable and the preparation for a single currency. Despite this reassurance, however, the realignment has at the very least put further doubts on 1997 as the earliest date at which

Although Portugal and Spain are still part of the ERM system, they are on a slippery slope

Europe can move towards the final stage of economic and monetary union. It also calls in question whether any of the Mediterranean countries are economically fit to join in the foreseeable future.

The Maastricht treaty stipulates that a currency must retain its parity in the ERM for at least two years before it

can join the third and final stage of EMU. Legally, Spain and Portugal have therefore missed the opportunity to join in January 1997.

Of the other Mediterranean countries, Greece has never been a member of the ERM and Italy was ejected from the system (along with Britain) on Black Wednesday in 1992. Although Portugal and Spain are still part of the ERM, they are on a slippery slope. Unless they can reassert their credibility over their determination to cut the budget deficit, the financial markets will assume and ensure that the peseta and the escudo will come under renewed pressure.

For Spain and Portugal the ERM works only in its stone-age guise as a system to ensure "orderly" devaluations against the mark. But the ERM's prime objective, currency stability, has so far eluded the south, and remains confined to only a hard-core of northern EU countries.

The two year ERM-waiting period would also apply to Britain, if Britain wanted to join the single currency in

1999, currently the most likely date for the third stage of EMU. If Britain wanted to join then, sterling would have to re-enter the ERM no later than January 1997.

In Madrid and Lisbon yesterday, government spokesmen admitted that the chances of their countries joining a single European currency, even in 1999, now looked unlikely. In Spain, the Catalan nationalists said they would maintain their support for the minority Socialist Government in spite of its inability to inspire any confidence as it attempts ineptly to cope with a series of corruption scandals and a soaring public deficit.

In Barcelona, looking strained and tired, Felipe González, the Prime Minister, who once championed the EU and a single currency, appeared at a meeting of European socialists and tried to play down the latest disaster to hit his administration. "Generally you can't strictly say that this has been a devaluation but a re-alignment," he said. "We have lost value against the mark, but we have gained against the



Spanish stock exchange traders anxiously scan computer monitor screens in their dealing room in Madrid yesterday after the peseta suffered a weekend devaluation of 7 per cent, its fourth fall in two and a half years

dollar in the past few weeks. This is the difficulty in understanding this strange situation that has devastated many currencies in the market.

"Imports in marks will be more expensive but those in dollars will be cheaper," he added. Analysts, he said, saw

benefits to the economy, to tourism and to exports in the move.

The devaluation is nevertheless expected to increase underlying year-on-year inflation, currently at 4.5 per cent and rising. But there are signs that the Spanish econ-

omy is gradually recovering with last year's GDP at 1.9 per cent.

In Lisbon, a Portuguese government spokesman said that the 3.5 per cent devaluation of the escudo would further improve the balance of trade with Spain and reduce

inflation, currently running at 4.5 per cent, with growth forecast at 1.5 per cent and unemployment around 7.0 per cent.

Currency crisis, page 16
Leading article, page 17
Business News, page 23

Bonn envoys take economy route to a global role

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN diplomats have been issued strict orders to fly economy class on all flights of less than four hours, to search out special fares and to surrender to the Foreign Ministry their "air miles".

All diplomats, irrespective of rank, are being urged to take the cheapest fare even when they are allowed to travel in business or first class. Secretaries have been advised to book their bosses' flights for weekends to benefit from reduced fares. Diplomats on long-haul trips may travel business class providing they stay for only a day or two; a longer trip obliges them to take cheaper fares.

The cutback underlines Germany's problems as it tries to take on a global role. Funds for diplomatic travel were cut by 15 per cent last year. In the past decade the

is playing host to President Kim Young Sam of South Korea. Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, Chuan Leekpai, the Thai Prime Minister, and Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister. All hope for trade deals yet Bonn has little to offer. It seems to be retreating from any foreign policy based on large financial commitments.

The warning bells have been ringing since the return from the United States of Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister. In America, Herr Rühe learned that America is expelling the Europeans - that is, Germany - to shoulder the cost of any United Nations withdrawal from Bosnia. Estimates for this operation range up to \$40 billion (£24 billion). Germany's budget planners do not have even a fraction of this sum available. None the less, Germany is regarded as the paymaster. Instead of sending troops to the Gulf in 1990, Germany contributed about \$9 billion to the war effort. This time the war zone is in Europe and France and Britain consider that they are doing their bit with troops.

The financial restraints on foreign policy have intensified the quiet battle for control of the ministry. Herr Rühe is projecting himself as Germany's foreign policy architect by championing Nato's extension eastwards. But the Government has two foreign policy managers: Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister. At the edges, meanwhile, various Christian Democrats are nibbling away at the foreign portfolio. At the same time, budgetary restraints are exposing the weaknesses of Herr Kinkel's ministry. A permanent seat on the Security Council, one of Herr Kinkel's most cherished aims, could prove to be a very expensive commitment.



Rühe expected to fund Bosnia withdrawal

Foreign Ministry travel budget has risen by about \$500,000, but during the same period 14 new German Embassies have been opened. Germany, eager to play a global leadership role, finds itself strapped for cash and singularly unprepared.

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This is a high-contrast, black and white image showing a close-up of a textured surface, possibly a book cover or endpaper. The image is characterized by a prominent vertical crease or fold running down the center, which divides the frame into two halves. The texture is highly irregular and grainy, with a mix of dark, almost black areas and lighter, greyish-white patches. The lighting is dramatic, creating deep shadows and bright highlights that emphasize the rough, uneven nature of the material. There are no discernible figures, objects, or text within the image.



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China increases military spending

Lawyer
10/22/55
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Democratic
parties
triumph in
Hong Kong

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Fears grow in South-East Asia

China increases military spending

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday announced an increase of 21 per cent in defence spending during the current year. The decision is likely to create fresh anxiety in South-East Asia, which is already nervous about recent Chinese moves over the disputed Spratly Islands in the potentially oil-rich South China Sea.

Despite the end of the Cold War, the proposed increase detailed by Liu Zongli, the Foreign Minister, in the second day of the annual meeting of China's large rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, would mean that military spending in China has risen for six years in a row, diplomats in Peking said. In 1994, defence outlay rose by 22.4 per cent.

At the opening session of the congress on Sunday Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, told almost 3,000 delegates that China's 3 million-strong People's Liberation Army should

"make further efforts to become a revolutionary, modern and regular army with increased combat effectiveness and defence capabilities".

Envoys in Peking say the PLA has been looking overseas — including Israel — for more advanced weapons systems.

Early last month, China caused alarm in the Philippines region when it was revealed that its navy had erected what seemed to be military structures on Mischief Reef off Palawan island, in the Philippines' zone of economic influence.

The move appeared to be a Chinese military attempt to reinforce territorial claims in the South China Sea, most of which it maintains is Chinese territory.

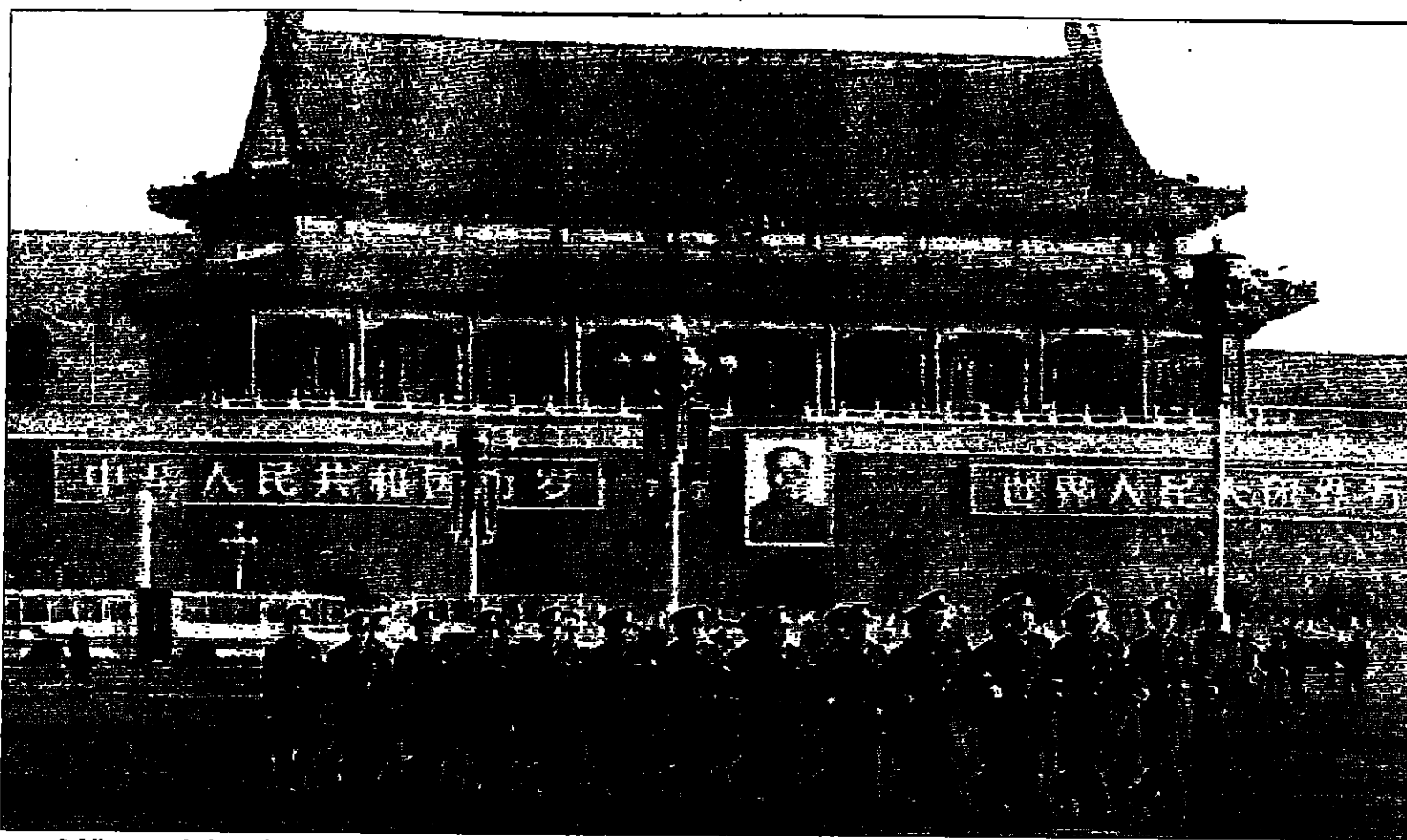
With energy needs increasing along with the population, oil supplies are falling behind in China, which two years ago became a net importer of petroleum for the first time.

Peking, diplomats say, is likely to try to grab any significant oil discoveries in the South China Sea.

However, foreign envoys said last night that there appeared little cause for alarm in the Government's new budget proposals, because the planned increase in military spending to \$7.5 billion (\$4.6 billion) was less than the level of inflation.

The daily food allowance of Chinese soldiers was at present only about \$0.54 cents, they said. The PLA, one diplomat noted, needed to take care of infrastructural matters like barracks. "They need a lot of funds to improve the living standards of their soldiers," said one Western military attaché. "We have to take that into account."

Diplomats say, however, that not all military spending is included in the budget. Sales of military goods and technology to other countries, and local sales of other prod-



Soldiers march through Peking's Tiananmen Square yesterday. The People's Congress is being held in the adjacent Great Hall of the People

ucts from army factories, could contribute to upgrading military hardware, though some of the funds received would go directly to factories making advanced weapons.

Sales of these have caused concern in the American Administration.

The 1995 draft budget set out yesterday also included an increase in spending on agri-

culture. It has fallen behind during China's rush to modernisation which followed the free-market economic reforms introduced in the late Seventies by Deng Xiaoping.

90. China's ailing senior leader, Chinese officials say that faltering growth in agricultural production was a key contributor to China's unofficial — but realistic — inflation rate

of 24.4 per cent last year. The national budget proposals also urged local authorities to try "every possible financial means" to increase investment in farm productivity.



President Jiang Zemin, left, confers with Premier Li Peng, centre, and Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji yesterday, the second day of parliamentary proceedings in Peking

Lawyer to sue Chinese police

By JONATHAN MIRSKY
EAST ASIA EDITOR

A CHINESE former policeman is suing his colleagues for false arrest. In a country where the law has only recently permitted citizens to seek redress from the authorities, a policeman has done what Wang Jiaqi intends.

Mr Wang, 35, was a policeman for eight years in the northeastern city of Tianjin, before managing to enrol at Peking University, as a law student.

After graduating, he became involved with the free trade union movement, which the Communist party regards as the most dangerous dissident group, potentially representing 70 million low-paid industrial workers. In the spring of 1994, Mr Wang claimed at Columbia University where he is a visiting scholar, he was "kidnapped" by the police and held without charge for 23 days. Taking advantage of some sympathy from his former colleagues, he escaped and made his way to New York.

"China's road to democracy is a long and difficult one," Mr Wang said. "After at least 100 years, everyone needs a rest. But before we can have democracy, we need a system based on justice and law. That's why I'm going to sue the police." He said, however, that judicial independence was a basic legal problem.

Mr Wang is considering returning to China. Legal authorities in America and London fear he may be arrested and imprisoned, or deported. He knows the odds are against him, but remains determined. "In imperial times even the emperor sometimes admitted they made mistakes. In my case, that's what I want the state to do."

Democracy parties triumph in Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE
IN HONG KONG

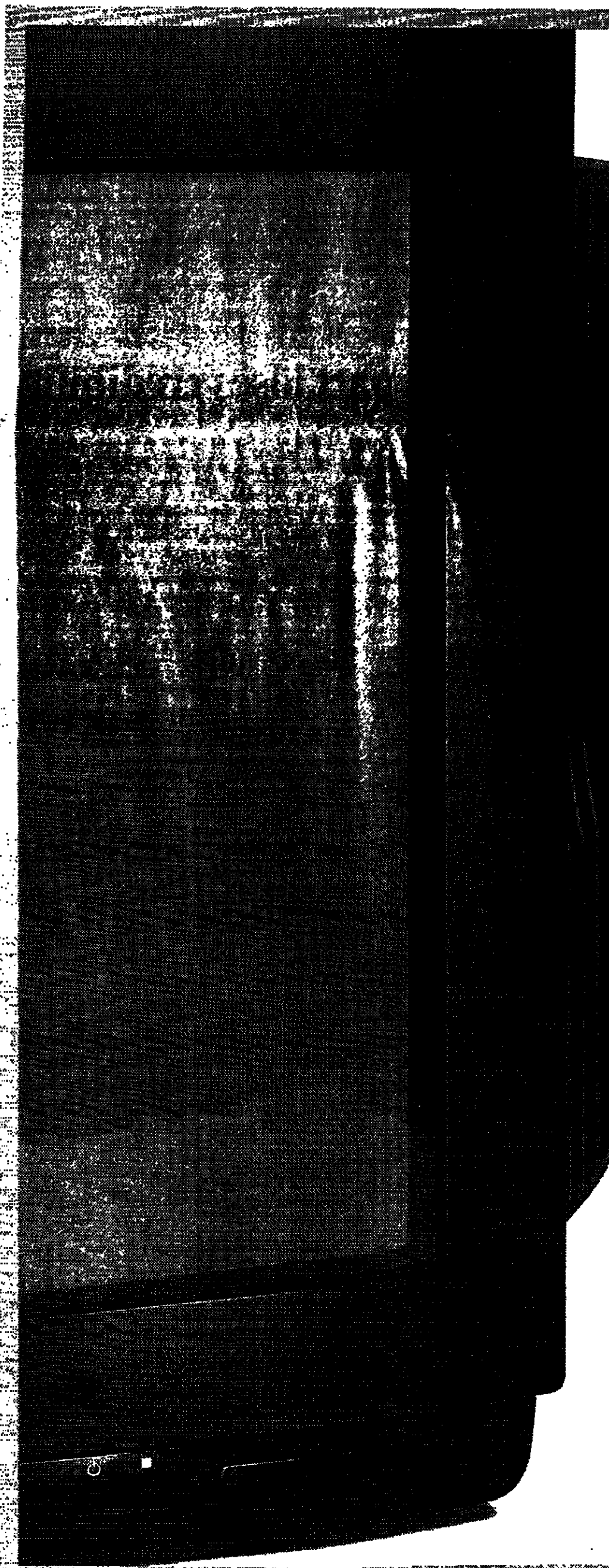
PRO-DEMOCRACY parties swept to victory yesterday as the last results from the weekend's municipal council elections gave them 31 of Hong Kong's 59 constituencies against eight for the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, the main pro-Peking party.

The poll was the last fully democratic election to be fought in the colony under British rule and only the second in Hong Kong's 153-year history. All the parties agreed it was an important training and testing ground for the more important, but not fully democratic, election for the Legislative Council in September.

But the future of democratic developments remains obscured by China's threat to dissolve all three tiers of elected government when it takes control of Hong Kong in July 1997. Peking's dispute with Britain over the attempts of Chris Patten, the Governor, to broaden the franchise for the Legislative Council has sharply divided opinion here between those favouring democracy over co-operation with China and those putting a premium on a good relationship with Peking.

The election claimed its most prominent victim in British-born Elsie Tu, 81, who had fought for democracy and the rights of the poor from the moment she arrived in Hong Kong as a missionary in 1951. She had joined the pro-China camp in outrage over Mr Patten's handling of the debate about constitutional reform.

She at first stood as an independent but, in a determined last stand against the democracy juggernaut, she accepted the backing of the pro-China groups in a bitter personal electoral battle against her former ally, Szeto Wah, a charismatic pro-democracy activist. Commenting on his victory over her, Mr Szeto said: "It shows China should listen more to the people of Hong Kong."



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Croatia offered trade package to toe line on peace

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

EUROPEAN Union Foreign Ministers yesterday agreed in principle to conclude a new trade and co-operation agreement with Croatia, but said that negotiations could not begin until President Tudjman had agreed to renew the mandate of the United Nations troops in the former Yugoslav republic.

The Brussels meeting decided to step up diplomatic inducements to Croatia to prevent the withdrawal of 12,000 peacekeeping troops, who have been ordered to leave by the end of the month. The 15 ministers gave a warning that if the issue was not resolved, fighting could quickly erupt between Serbs and Croats all along the ceasefire lines.

Their fears coincided with a sombre warning in London yesterday by Irian Ljubijankic, the Bosnian Foreign Minister, that all-out war could return to Bosnia because of the failure to make any headway. "As you know, the clock is ticking," he said at the start of a two-day visit to Britain. "We are dangerously close to resumption of all-out war. At the moment we have a kind of diplomatic vacuum."

Mr Ljubijankic will today meet Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Minister of State, to discuss the impact over the refusal by President Milosevic of Serbia to recognise Bosnia and Croatia. "The only language Milosevic understands is force," he said yesterday. He called for a reintroduction of UN sanctions on sport, communications and culture, and

Brussels: In the sharpest rebuke to Moscow yet over the Chechnya war, European Foreign Ministers yesterday put a wide-ranging trade agreement with Russia into cold storage (George Brock writes). The French, German and Spanish ministers will tell President Yeltsin this week that the deal will not be signed until the EU is convinced Russia is negotiating to end the war and allowing aid agencies to help half a million refugees.

said only a lifting of the international arms embargo on Bosnia would have a decisive effect on Serbia.

The European pressure on Croatia came amid speculation that the United Nations is looking for a formula that would allow the bulk of the UN Protection Force to remain, with only a cosmetic adjustment to their mandate and strength. There has been talk of splitting Unprofor into separate forces for Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia, and this might persuade President Tudjman to accept their continued presence.

Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy in former Yugoslavia, was angered by Dr Tudjman's order to leave, and gave a warning that if the UN withdrew, it would move its headquarters from Zagreb — with significant economic losses to the Croatian capital. Mr Akashi yesterday also warned Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, that a continued blockade of medical

supplies in Bosnia could lead to indictments by the UN tribunal investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

His warning, in a letter to Dr Karadzic, came as the Bosnian Serbs threatened to step up their blockade of three besieged Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. The Bosnian Serb troops have prevented medical convoys reaching Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa to reinforce their demands for an increase in humanitarian aid to Serb-held territory.

UN military officials said yesterday that any withdrawal of UN troops from Bosnia would be a dangerous affair. The UN is preparing for an upsurge in fighting and is making contingency plans for the evacuation of its forces.

Today, the envoys of the five-nation Contact Group will meet again in Paris to try to avert a new war. At their previous meeting last Thursday, also in Paris, they made scant progress in their search for a way to persuade President Milosevic to back their plan for peace.

The Contact Group — made up of the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — fear that fresh fighting in Bosnia once the truce, brokered by former Jimmy Carter, the former US President, last December, expires on May 1. "It's a question of getting all hands on deck," a British official said. He added that Richard Holbrooke, the US Assistant Secretary of State, was taking a "robust message" to Dr Tudjman in Zagreb in another effort to persuade him to revoke his decision.



A Sudanese delegate applauds at the opening ceremony of the Copenhagen summit, attended by 120 world leaders and 15000 delegates

UN urges leaders to tackle social injustice

By CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN AND LUCY BERRINGTON

THE United Nations yesterday made an impassioned call to world leaders to act urgently against poverty and social injustice.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Secretary-General, opening the Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, said 1.3 billion people suffered from grinding poverty as a direct result of war and it was in the interests of their governments to care for them.

"We know today that most of the armed conflicts, with which the United Nations is faced, are domestic. We also know that most of them have evident social and economic causes," he added. "We must state yet again the clear link between the promotion of



development and the preservation of peace."

The summit, involving about 120 world leaders and more than 15,000 delegates from 180 countries, has set itself lofty goals, such as eradicating world poverty and social injustice, combating unemployment and establishing social stability in the post-Cold

War age. Dr Boutros Ghali said that 1.5 billion people did not have access to basic health services, and that 70 per cent of the world's poor came from the ranks of women.

"The first step in the fight against social alienation must be directed against greed and indifference," he said. "Tolerance, solidarity and action are needed to overcome the social discrimination which exists throughout the world."

An opinion poll published in the Danish daily newspaper *Politiken* showed that three out of four Danes doubted that the week-long summit would achieve tangible results in bridging the gap between the world's haves and have-nots.

But Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Danish Prime Minister, called the meeting "a summit of hope" and dismissed criticism that it was just another

UN talk-shop. "We are discussing real problems which concern all people," he said in his welcoming speech. Denmark is footing the £18 million summit bill.

Juan Somavia, the main organiser of the summit, also hit back at critics who alleged that the agenda was so ambitious that it would render it impotent. Señor Somavia, who is Chile's permanent representative to the UN, said: "In this summit, we are opening up issues that have never been discussed at all by heads of state. This would have been impossible during the Cold War, when all we got was an ideological debate between competing social systems."

Señor Somavia had proposed the summit in 1991 when he was chairman of the UN's social committee. He said government leaders had

been mesmerised by the Cold War that they were unprepared for what followed, "an unexpectedly cold peace marked by increased poverty, unemployment and social fragmentation."

He said: "The main message of the summit is the high political cost of inaction. We have to put people back into the picture. Social expenditure must increasingly be seen as social investment."

Señor Somavia envisaged the cost of new social policies being partly met by the reallocation of funds away from projects, such as infrastructure, that could be left to market forces. In addition, the UN is calling on financiers to follow the example of the Inter-American Development Bank, which has assigned 50 per cent of its loans to social projects.

Mafia 'a threat to Russia'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Security Council warned yesterday that organised crime had grown so strong that it posed a real threat to national security.

In a meeting chaired by President Yeltsin, ministers and advisers in charge of law enforcement agencies were reprimanded for failing to tackle what many regard as the most serious challenge to Russia's democratic institutions and economic reforms.

"Criminals going unpunished and the lack of tangible results from the battle against organised crime are discrediting state powers," Interfax reported sources as saying.

"As a result they are threatening the security of Russia."

Russia's criminal gangs have dominated public attention since last week's assassination of Vladislav Listyev, the television host shot dead outside his apartment in a suspected contract killing over television advertising fees.

His death prompted calls for a crackdown on organised crime and it seems likely that the authorities will be granted greater powers to monitor and detain suspects and seize their property.

However, many Russians were sceptical, particularly since similar promises were

made last year. Viktor Yerin, the Interior Minister, and Sergei Stepashin, head of counter-intelligence, and Aleksei Ilyushenko, the acting Prosecutor-General — who were criticised by fellow ministers yesterday — have been accused regularly of gross incompetence.

The only steps taken since the murder have been the dismissals of Gennadi Ponomarev, the prosecutor, and Vladimir Pankratov, the police chief. However, many fear the sackings have more to do with a power struggle between the Kremlin and Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's Mayor.

Climate pact loses credibility as temperature rises

By NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE climate change convention, agreed by 160 nations in an attempt to tackle global warming, has become an international farce with few countries taking its aims seriously, according to the World Watch Institute, a Washington-based think-tank.

The institute made its claim as nations prepare to meet in Berlin this month to discuss further cuts in emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas

linked to global warming. It also follows devastating floods in Europe, rising world temperatures and the disintegration of Antarctic ice sheets, which observers believe may be signs of the Earth heating up.

Tomorrow, the Government is expected to publish figures claiming that Britain will meet its emission targets by 2000, despite the fact that tactics to control emissions have failed.

Critics claim that the Government forecasts are farcical and based on figures prepared by the Department of

Trade and Industry that are questionable. Britain has promised to stabilise emissions at 1990 levels by 2000. In 1989 this represented a 21 per cent reduction, but in 1992 this was revised to 6 per cent. The latest estimate will claim no more action is needed.

Andrew Warren, of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, said: "From talk about tough changes in lifestyles and energy use, they are suddenly turning around and saying 'We have solved it'. It is not logical."

The World Watch Institute claims that nearly all the nations which signed the convention in Rio de Janeiro three years ago have been backpedalling. It claims that America, which has emissions five times the per capita world level, will miss the targets.

Third World countries have resisted even symbolic measures since they give low priority to climate issues. But their emissions are increasing at more than five times the rate of industrial countries and last year China was the second in emissions, behind America.



With lamps attached to their heads and accompanied by flute players, almost 100,000 Swiss took to the streets to celebrate the Basle carnival in complete darkness at 4pm yesterday (Sharmila Devi writes). The event, known as "Morgestraich", literally morning joke, started a three-

Staid Swiss roll out the barrel

day spring festival when bars stay open all night and revelers take to the streets at all hours while business shuts down in the otherwise staid town. The event is the culmination of year-long prepara-

tions for the moment when, in the early hours, street lights are extinguished and participants wearing hand-made costumes and masks play music and bang drums as they march through the town

chasing away evil spirits. The festival is one of many hosted by Basle since the city was granted a licence to stage trade fairs in 1471. It also serves as an excuse for local politics. This year included protests against the imposition of VAT on items including restaurant meals.

Barre pulls out of race for Elysée

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

RAYMOND BARRE, France's former centrist Prime Minister, yesterday ruled out standing for the presidency, thus paving the way for his mentor, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, to enter the race.

However, if M Giscard d'Estaing is greatly tempted to run, his difficulties were exposed by M Barre's announcement.

"The conditions do not appear at the moment to be right for implementing the policies that I believe necessary," said the man who served as M Giscard d'Estaing's Prime Minister between 1976 and 1981.

As commentators pointed out, the same logic applies to the former President.

The two men have been playing cat-and-mouse with the French electorate since Christmas, but yesterday in stepping aside, M Barre said: "I do not want to complicate a complex and confused political situation."

CIA agents in France were 'more Clouseau than Bond'

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE CIA emerges as ham-fisted and ill-informed according to a leaked account of its vain attempts to spy in Paris.

American agents asked basic questions, fell into obvious traps and committed a series of gaffes as they sought access to the workings of the French Government, according to the newspaper, *Le Figaro*.

The disclosures come a fortnight after Paris confirmed that five alleged US spies had been asked to leave France, sparking a diplomatic crisis between the two countries.

According to the DST, the French counter-espionage agency, the CIA wanted information on the agricultural and cultural issues that dominated arguments between France and the US during the 1993 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations.

But the American operation appears to have owed more to Inspector Clouseau than James Bond. One of the CIA agents, named as Mary-Ann Baumgartner, thought she

had a direct line to the French state when she made friends with "Henri", an adviser to Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister. In fact, Henri had been alerted to Mrs Baumgartner's role by the French Interior Ministry and told to act as bait.

Resigning as M Balladur's adviser just 12 days after his appointment in April 1993, Henri explained to Mrs Baumgartner that he had decided to concentrate on his own political career. She apparently believed his story and asked him to meet the "head of the Minnesota cereal lobby" in a hotel near Charles de Gaulle airport. Henri obliged, answered the "lobbyist's" questions and was given 5,000 francs (about £600).

There were four more interviews between Henri and the man from Minnesota, named as Pastor, who took to arriving with a questionnaire.

Each time, Henri filled in the answers — which he gleaned from the French press or made up, *Le Figaro* says.

In January last year, Pastor introduced Henri to a woman described as "the big boss".

She earned a measure of respect from her French counterparts, making it difficult for then to photograph her and revealing little about herself.

Nevertheless, she was identified as a "high-ranking" CIA analyst. Among other things, she asked Henri why France was so worked up about cultural issues when "a majority of films on French television are American", — a curious question from a Minnesotan agricultural lobbyist.

Henri was pulled out of his summer espionage role at that stage yet, *Le Figaro* says, it is not clear why this should be made public 15 months later.

The US administration is convinced that the disclosures were to distract attention from the difficulties which M Balladur is encountering in his Presidential campaign. If so, the attempted manipulation was almost as incompetent as the original CIA operation.

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Britain in clash

France angers West by opening mission in Iraq

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FRANCE yesterday opened a diplomatic mission in Iraq as Britain and other Western Governments were considering a possible United Nations resolution that would facilitate the sale of Iraqi oil to raise money for humanitarian relief.

Iraqi officials clapped and cheered at a reception in the old French Embassy where four French diplomats welcomed a senior Iraqi official at the opening of the French interests section. Jean-François Nodmot, the head of the diplomatic delegation, told Abduljabbar al-Douri, the under-secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, that the reopening of the mission, under the Romanian flag, signalled "a new stage in the history of relations between Iraq and France".

The French initiative has angered France's Western allies. The Foreign Office refused to comment yesterday, but drew attention to a tart statement last month when it said that this was not the moment to relax the pressure on Saddam Hussein. Washington is even more annoyed: Madeleine Albright, the American Ambassador to the UN, has just completed a tour of seven Security Council members to galvanise support for Washington's tough line against any relaxation of sanctions against Iraq.

Britain has been Washington's strongest supporter. But diplomatic sources say that there is a growing feeling

among the Western allies that the conditions attached to the 1991 Security Council resolution, allowing the limited sale of oil, should be relaxed to persuade Saddam to resume oil exports. He has refused to do so, denouncing the conditions attached to oil sales as an unacceptable infringement of Iraqi sovereignty.

The resolution allows Baghdad to sell \$1.6 billion (1987 million) in oil, with some of the profits being impounded to pay for the UN weapons inspection teams and the rest being set aside as reparations to Kuwait and the victims of the Gulf War. Iraq would be allowed to keep \$1 billion to buy food, medicines and humanitarian aid.

The allies are increasingly

angered by Saddam's refusal to agree to these conditions. Not only does he present to the Arab world the starvation and plight of Iraqi children as a direct result of Western sanctions, but without any oil income, there is no money that the UN can use to pay for its expensive monitoring programme and the aid programme for the Kurds.

Western allies are considering relaxing the condition that particularly angered Baghdad — the distribution of food and medicines inside Iraq by UN officials to ensure vital supplies went to the general population and not to the army.

Whitehall officials yesterday spoke of "repackaging" Security Council resolutions to

allow limited oil sales, and informal discussions have been held in New York between Iraqi and Western diplomats.

This proposal could blunt the calls by France and Russia for an immediate lifting of sanctions. Both countries have argued that Iraq has fulfilled the conditions laid down by the UN on scrapping weapons of mass destruction, and should not be cut off from the world indefinitely.

Iraq made much of the French decision to re-establish a presence in Baghdad. Mr Douri said his Government sought to "restore relations to their former level".

□ Baghdad: Muhammad Said al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, embarked yesterday on a tour of UN Security Council member states, starting with Nigeria, to muster support for lifting the embargo.

Mr Douri said that the minister would visit Lagos, and non-member states, but he did not name the countries. "Iraq will carry on its diplomatic offensive in both the East and the West... and will knock on all doors to break the embargo," he said, adding that support was growing.

On Saturday, Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, ruled out hope that the Security Council would ease the four-year-old sanctions at its next review. He said that the UN would wait for a report on Iraq's progress on disarmament, due on April 10. (AFP)

Talks focus on fate of Palestinian refugees

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI and Arab leaders will today discuss for the first time one of the most explosive issues in the fragile Middle East peace process — the future of large numbers of Palestinian refugees displaced during the 1967 Six Day War, and their families.

Differences on the issue are formidable. Arabs say the future of about 800,000 people is at stake. Israel puts the number at no higher

than 200,000, and says no decision has yet been taken on their right to return to what is now the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, will attend the talks in the Jordanian capital, Amman. Nabil Shaath, a member of the new Palestinian Authority, and the Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Jordan, will also be present.

Gingrich's lesbian half-sister tackles 'intolerant' Right

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CANDACE Gingrich, the lesbian half-sister of Speaker Newt, took the gay cause to the very heart of Capitol Hill yesterday, pitting herself against the most radical members of her brother's Republican leadership.

Ms Gingrich, a 28-year-old computer technician from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is spearheading a lobbying campaign to preserve money for Aids programmes on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, America's largest gay and lesbian political group. The fund is also seeking legislation to protect homosexuals from discrimination in the workplace, including the military, and what it calls "hate legislation" from Jesse



Candace Gingrich: aims to preserve Aids budget

Helms, the North Carolina senator, and other homophobic Republicans, notably from the Christian Right.

The younger Gingrich has made no plans to visit her relative — they have the same biological mother — and, indeed, said she had not discussed her homosexuality with him. "We don't talk that much anyhow," Ms Gingrich said. "I don't know if he's spoken with my mom about it." Asked if her half-brother was anti-gay, she said no, "just maybe uninformed".

She first discussed her sexuality eight years ago and was nationally "outed" when Newt Gingrich was elected to the most powerful position in the Capitol. According to a gay

Washington newspaper, Mr Gingrich has consistently voted against gay issues. In an interview with the *Blade* last November, he promoted tolerance towards homosexuality, but added: "It is madness to pretend that families are anything other than heterosexual couples."

His sister said such "tolerance" was not enough and accused the Speaker of discrimination. "For him to say we should be tolerated still allows for us to be fired merely for being gay or lesbian, and that's not tolerance, that's discrimination," she told *The New York Times*. "I want him to understand that discrimination is wrong." She emphasised that they were not seeking special treatment, but that Americans ought to realise that they were being discriminated against every day.

Steve Gunderson, a gay Republican representative from Wisconsin, said Mr Gingrich had been personally supportive. "Newt is much more conservative than I am," he said. "I am going to be much more comfortable with government solutions than he is. That doesn't mean he is anti-gay." He added that House leaders had assured him that most Aids programmes would be approved again in the coming year.

Ms Gingrich said her elder sibling was more concerned about her being a Democrat who supports abortion and gun control than her status as a lesbian. On that basis, the fund chose her as a chief lobbyist this week in the hope that her high profile might win support in Congress for measures to shield Aids funds from any budget cuts.

While Mr Gingrich is unlikely to attack his half-sister, it remains to be seen whether the Republicans can maintain their silence on one of several social issues that could divide the party. Dick Army, co-author of Mr Gingrich's *Contract with America*, publicly apologised recently after referring to Barney Frank, the outspoken gay Democrat, as "Barney Fag" — a sign that anti-gay sentiments are barely beneath the surface.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey aid deal hinges on rights

Brussels: As a trade and aid deal was agreed last night, EU Ministers warned Turkey that ties will only develop if its human rights record improves (George Brock writes).

The agreement has yet to be cleared by the European Parliament, where MEPs have threatened to block it.

Half apology

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of the South African President, has written to him complaining that her apology for criticising the Government was written by "you to yourself".

Angolans drown

Luanda: At least 52 Angolans, including many women and children, were drowned and more than 100 were missing after a coaster ran aground about 160 miles south of here. About 45 survived. (Reuters)

Mafia killings

Catania: A gunman shot dead three men near the Sicilian town of Catania in a Mafia ambush, police said. The shootings, before witnesses, were in the suburb of Gravina di Catania. (Reuters)

Coup foiled

Lagos: An army plot to topple General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian military ruler, has been uncovered and at least 150 officers are being questioned, local magazines have reported. (Reuters)

Saving turtles

Wellington: Twenty-six Pacific nations launched a campaign to save the marine turtle from extinction, calling for a ban on the sale of its meat, oil and shell. Six species are endangered. (Reuters)

Speaker silenced

Seoul: South Korean opposition MPs barricaded the National Assembly Speaker and his deputy in their homes to prevent the ruling party from pushing through changes to electoral law. (AFP)

Britain in clash over Unicef

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN and other members of the European Union are fiercely at odds with the United States over who should be the next director of Unicef, the United Nations Children's Fund.

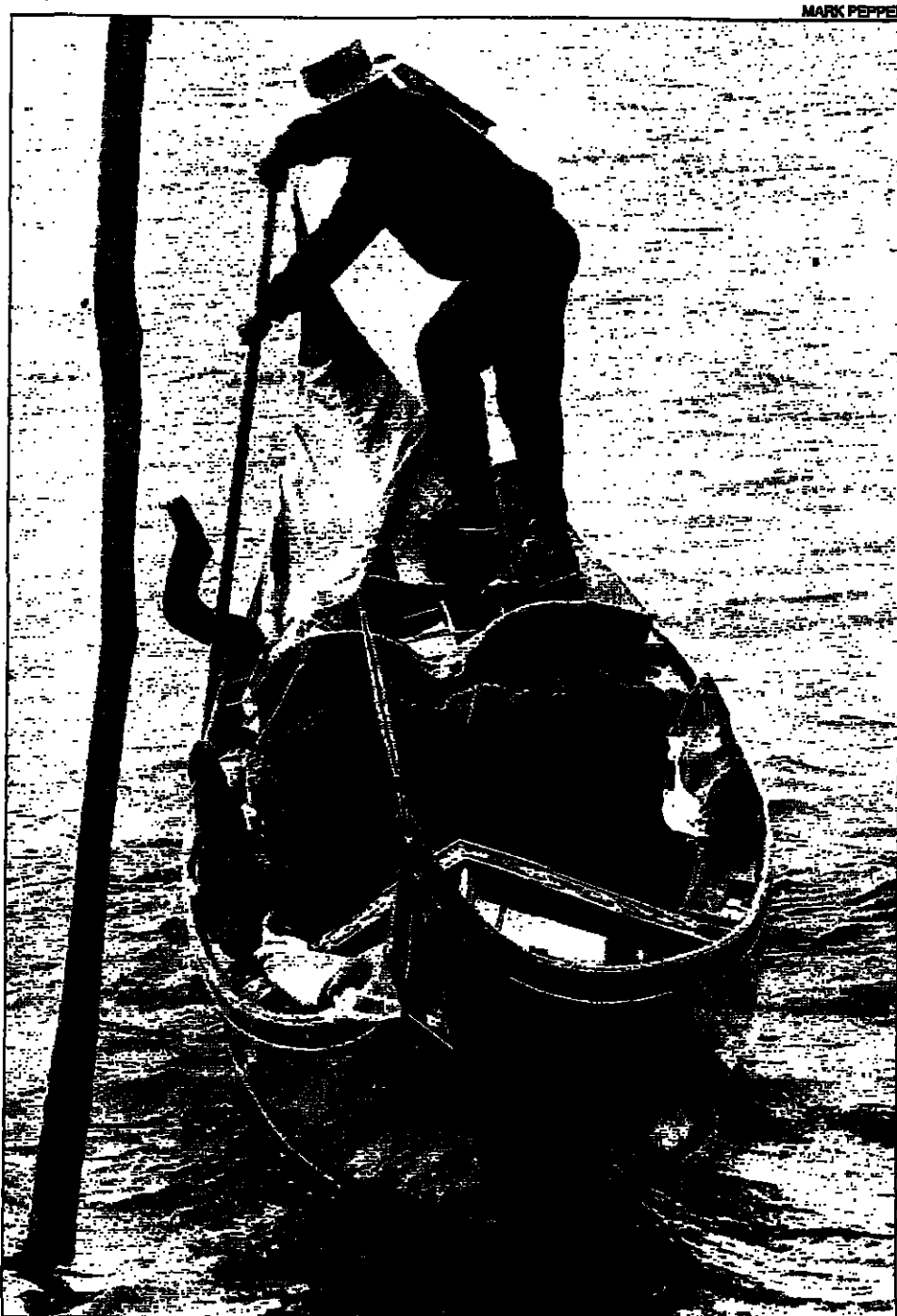
The post has been held by an American since the agency was founded in 1946, and the Clinton Administration had assumed that the tradition would continue after the death in January of James Grant. He had overseen Uni-

cef's programmes to help children in 138 countries for the past 14 years.

Washington's candidate to succeed him is William Foege, a distinguished epidemiologist who was a key figure in the global eradication of smallpox. He has done extensive work in helping poor countries to fight polio and promote immunisation. But Britain has weighed in on behalf of Richard Jolly, 60, a British economist who has

been an executive at Unicef since 1982, and is now the acting director.

However, not all of Europe is backing Britain's choice. The Nordic countries support Elisabeth Rehn, a former Finnish Defence Minister, and long-time proponent of Unicef. Belgium's nominee is Anne-Marie Lizin, a member of the Belgian and European parliaments and vice-president of the Socialist International.



Gondoliers are taught to row by their fathers, but their numbers have fallen as the city has become more expensive and many young men have left Venice for the mainland

Venice puts new gondoliers to test

FROM SARAH CUNNINGHAM IN ROME

THE next generation of Venetian gondoliers, who until now have needed only a health certificate, a clean police record and the ability to row in order to ply their trade, will soon need a special driving licence.

Aspiring gondoliers must apply by Friday for places on the first course starting at the end of the month. Candidates will study topics from navigation to the history of Venice and foreign languages.

The learned gondoliers will also have 30 hours, learning the difficult Venetian rowing technique. At the end of the course they will have to take both written and practical tests.

Maura Mingardi, secretary of the Gondoliers' Association, said that the introduction of licences followed a national law tightening up rules for all public transport operators. She said that the association saw it as a chance to improve the image of the gondoliers, who will become fully fledged guides.

"It is a chance for us to introduce new ideas," she said. All the students, who will be taught at the city's Barbarigo Technical School, would study two languages.

Traditionally, gondoliers have learned from their fathers. But the population has fallen as the city has become more expensive, and many young men have left.

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Breast cancer patients have a right to the most advanced therapy, says Gwyneth Vorhaus

Why did I have to battle for the treatment that I need?

I developed breast cancer in September 1989, aged 43, and metastatic spread in September 1993. I have just started high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell treatment (HDSC) which, if I had known about it earlier, might have saved my life. Now the prognosis is uncertain.

After surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment at a specialist hospital, I went for six-monthly routine checks there. In September 1993 I developed a persistent cough, a typical symptom of metastatic spread to the lung, though I did not know it. I reported this symptom at my check-up but it was not investigated.

By Christmas I had trouble swallowing and was breathless. Again, the hospital dismissed this as a virus or infection, making no investigation. I was put on several

treatment. I was told it was not appropriate for breast cancer (it is widely used for leukaemia). Yet I was to discover that HDSC has been used in America for more than ten years for breast cancer. It is available in over 120 centres and the American National Cancer Institute considers it the preferred treatment in some cases.

Breast cancer that has spread to other organs or to the bones is incurable using the standard treatment available in Britain. The medical profession's policy, to judge by the hospital's practice in my case, seems to be to wait for symptoms of cancer spread to develop and then just treat them as best they can to give a woman a relatively pain-free existence until her inevitable death.

I believe that this was why NHS money was used to treat

I found American doctors far more helpful than the British

the secondaries in my lung, but why I was refused a bone scan when I asked for one. (Later, when I went elsewhere to get HDSC, the cancer was found to have spread to the bone.)

After chemotherapy for my lung, which was successful, my treatment at the specialist hospital came to an end. I had not, however, given up on finding out about HDSC. Using my experience as a researcher, I pursued every possible avenue. I had to get access to American databases to send me their figures on numbers treated, mortality rates, remission rates, and so on. While I found American doctors generally helpful and

from the treatment is below 5 per cent with modern methods of administration.

It is a lot more expensive to give women repeated courses of conventional chemotherapy and radiation treatment designed temporarily to relieve symptoms, yet unable to cure, than it is to use a high-dose



Pioneer: Dr Len Price

open about information, I found the reverse in Britain. I was told HDSC did not exist (by hospital doctors); that it was not applicable to breast cancer patients (by BACUP, the British Association of Cancer United Patients) and that the American figures were inflated (by a respected British oncology professor).

HDSC is still officially experimental in America, but it has been used for over ten years and is offered by more than 120 centres, including the world leaders in the treatment of breast cancer. And following a successful court case, American insurance companies must now pay out for it. For women with primary breast cancer it offers a much greater chance of a cancer-free future.

For women with secondaries — if not too advanced and if not too many standard treatments of conventional chemotherapy have been given — it offers a 20 per cent chance of remission for many years (the upper limit not yet being known) and a 40 per cent chance of a longer remission than the two-year median offered by all other known treatments. The mortality risk



Dr Gwyneth Vorhaus: she used her experience in research to hunt down information

chemotherapy every three weeks, and one removal of stem cells. More stem cells will be removed next week, and on March 23 I will receive the first high-dose chemotherapy, which will take three days to administer. Two weeks' isolation follows after the stem cells have been reintroduced. The side-effects will be very severe, but not permanent.

The outcome is uncertain, but women with secondaries have nothing to lose — our survival rate is zero and the time period left to us is a median two years from start of symptoms. I welcome the 20 per cent chance of a cancer-free survival that would allow me time to be a mother to my two children.

Dr Len Price's work features in *Modern Times*: Harley Street, on BBC2 tomorrow at 8.30pm.

As Dr Abi Berger reported in *The Times* on September 6, two British trials of HDSC finally began last autumn, coordinated by Dr Bob Leonard of the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh. These involve between 12 and 15 hospitals and hope to recruit around 1,000 women with a poor prognosis, but in whom the disease has not spread.

For my treatment I had to turn to Dr Len Price at the London Clinic, who is one of the few British oncologists at present willing to treat women whose breast cancer has spread; happily my local health authority has now agreed to pay for it.

Under Dr Price's care I have now completed the induction treatments — three lots of

chemotherapy every three weeks, and one removal of stem cells. More stem cells will be removed next week, and on March 23 I will receive the first high-dose chemotherapy, which will take three days to administer. Two weeks' isolation follows after the stem cells have been reintroduced. The side-effects will be very severe, but not permanent.

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Drivers who nod off in the fast lane

Abnormal sleep patterns lie behind many road accidents

A skinhead found a simple way to enjoy himself at the M25 service station before the Dartford Tunnel last Friday. The youth went from car to car and when he found one in which the driver was sleeping, banged on the bonnet to wake the startled occupant and then looped off, grinning, to find another victim.

On the same day the *British Medical Journal* published a report by Professor Jim Horne and Ms Louise Reyner of the Sleep Research Laboratory at Loughborough University on the number of road accidents which can be attributed to the driver dropping off to sleep.

Two surveys were undertaken: a review of accidents between 1987 and 1992 on all roads in the South West of England, and a study of accidents on Midland motorways for three separate months in 1991, 1992 and 1994. Sixteen per cent of the accidents in the South West and 20 per cent of the motorway accidents were related to a driver falling asleep.

There are difficulties in being certain that sleepiness was the cause, but strict criteria were drawn up which made it the most likely reason for the driver's momentary lapse of attention, which often has more catastrophic effects than other causes of road traffic accidents. So strict were the guidelines that these percentages probably underestimate the problem. The authors, for instance, have excluded cases in which there was a burst tyre, although in many cases the tyre must have burst when the car hit the kerb and was therefore a result, not a cause, of the accident.

The peak times for accidents coincide with the sleepy times of the day as determined by the normal circadian rhythm. Sitting in the driver's seat does not counteract the natural tendency to sleep between 2am and 7am, and at siesta time in mid-afternoon — two periods of the day when sleep-related accidents are most likely to occur.

Men seem to fall asleep more readily than women, and younger men more often than older ones. These statistics may be related in part to different driving

patterns between men and women and youth and age, but even when not driving it is known that older people are less likely to experience extreme sleepiness in the early hours.

The monotony of driving, particularly motorway driving, has always been known to induce sleepiness in people with an abnormal sleep pattern. Those drivers who have been diagnosed as actually having narcolepsy have to inform the driving licence centre at Swansea of this.

In practice it is often difficult to differentiate between people who have an abnormal desire to fall asleep, and clinical narcolepsy. Narcolepsy is characterised by attacks of overwhelming sleepiness, cataplexy, the sudden loss of muscle tone and hence collapse; sleep paralysis, the inability to move when half asleep; and hypnagogic phenomena, a dreaming while awake. There are also changes in the brain waves of patients with narcolepsy when sleeping.

But the usual indicator is the bizarre pattern of sleep in afflicted patients.

Narcolepsy is particularly troublesome when circumstances are either very boring — such as a tedious television play — or very exciting. Narcoleptics can fall asleep, even into their soup, if the conversation with their dining companions is excessively stimulating, or their companionship very exciting; they can nod off during intercourse or during an athletics championship; whereas at the other extreme they can cause traffic accidents while driving, or offence by sleeping during lectures or debates.

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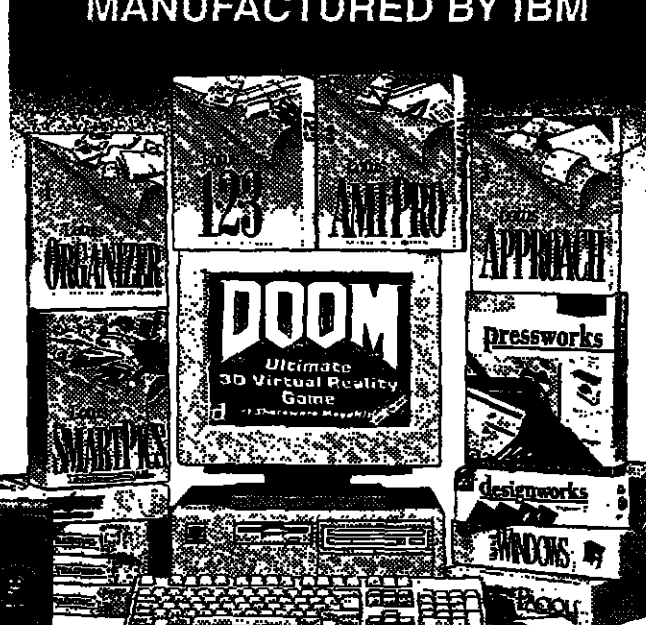
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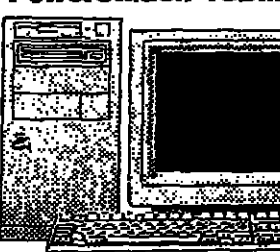


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Margot Norman on a heroic struggle for the truth behind a disaster



Marion Bayliss with a portrait of her husband, Curly, the chief officer, who was lost with the *Derbyshire* 15 years ago — now Lord Donaldson is to investigate

When the *MV Derbyshire* went down 15 years ago with all 44 crew in a typhoon off the south coast of Japan, it was Britain's biggest single shipping loss. The *Derbyshire*, a bulk carrier built by Swan Hunter on Tyneside, was only four years old, a well-maintained, expertly-crewed monster, 2,000ft long and the width of a motorway. Officially, we still do not know why she went down.

What we do know is that bulk carriers keep on going down at a terrifying rate. Nineteen of them sank last year. They account for nearly 60 per cent of total shipping losses, though they comprise only 7 per cent of the total fleet. Since 1971, more than 2,000 men have been lost on them. How many of those lives could have been saved if the *Derbyshire* disaster had been more thoroughly investigated? This is the thought that haunts Marion Bayliss, whose black-bearded husband Curly was the ship's chief officer. He had given in his notice, and after the voyage the couple were going to run a children's home together. "At last!" she sighed, upon hearing yesterday that the Government has appointed Lord Donaldson to head an independent inquiry into what happened.

"All I want is for everybody to sit down and be honest," she said. "Then, perhaps even this tragedy will have a positive outcome for the future, and Curly and all the others will not have died in vain." Mrs Bayliss believes that Lord Donaldson will find serious fault with the way the *Derbyshire* and four of the other five ships in her class were designed and built. In January, John Jubb, a respected former President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, gave a lecture entitled *Structural Failures of Bulk Carriers* in which he accused his whole profession of failing in its duty of safety. Even the

A fighter for those in peril on the sea

Wreckage offers clue to death of the *Derbyshire*

WRECKAGE, like the 'ghost' ship, has been a source of horror and grief for many years. The *Derbyshire* was a bulk carrier, built by Swan Hunter on Tyneside, was only four years old, a well-maintained, expertly-crewed monster, 2,000ft long and the width of a motorway. Officially, we still do not know why she went down. What we do know is that bulk carriers keep on going down at a terrifying rate. Nineteen of them sank last year. They account for nearly 60 per cent of total shipping losses, though they comprise only 7 per cent of the total fleet. Since 1971, more than 2,000 men have been lost on them. How many of those lives could have been saved if the *Derbyshire* disaster had been more thoroughly investigated? This is the thought that haunts Marion Bayliss, whose black-bearded husband Curly was the ship's chief officer. He had given in his notice, and after the voyage the couple were going to run a children's home together. "At last!" she sighed, upon hearing yesterday that the Government has appointed Lord Donaldson to head an independent inquiry into what happened.

Department of Transport's own investigators drafted a report ten years ago blaming "total structural failure" — cracks in the structure that would have snapped the ship in two — for the loss of the *Derbyshire*. Their conclusion was mysteriously expunged from the final, inconclusive report.

This official obfuscation has kept Mrs Bayliss angry ever since. Her Christian faith and her job as a nursing sister in charge of intensive care for sick babies saved her from going mad as her teenage children reacted, almost inevitably, to their father's death by getting into trouble. Then, in 1986, Radio 4 did a programme on the disaster.

Mrs Bayliss joined the families of other survivors in a campaign to get the investigation reopened. When a sister ship, the *Kowloon Bridge*, broke up in stormy weather in Bantry Bay, Ireland, the authorities agreed to a formal investigation into the *Derbyshire*.

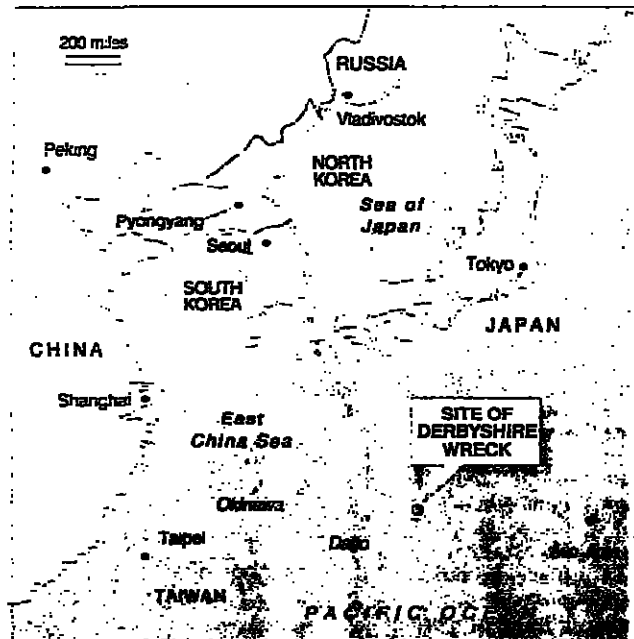
Mrs Bayliss spent as much time as she could during the winter of 1987 sitting in Church House, Westminster, listening to the evidence. The experience made her even angrier. "I felt the Wreck Commission had made his mind up from the beginning. He wouldn't allow evidence from

a highly reputable firm of naval architects who said there were faults in the design and building of these ships; he simply refused to look at previous reports. We wanted the plans for the *Derbyshire*, but they said they had been lost. They even said the Department of Transport's draft report had gone missing."

She believes that the problems of the *Derbyshire* and the other vessels were due to a misalignment of internal girders — a fault almost impossible to identify once construction was completed. By the time the inquiry reported that the sinking was caused merely by bad weather, Mrs Bayliss was so ill she had to give up nursing. The

strain of working at night, rushing to London by day from her home in Corby, Northamptonshire, and caring for a mother-in-law with dementia brought on a rheumatoid illness. She walks with a stick and is in pain.

Evidence of the structural weakness of bulk carriers continued to mount, and last July the International Transport Workers' Federation funded a mission to search for the wreck of the *Derbyshire*. They found it, in pieces, two and a half miles below the surface near a speck of an island called South Daito. Here at last was evidence that would show whether, as numerous engineers now believe, the ship had snapped in half at



frame 65, the weak point where the barge section joins the stern section accommodating the crew.

Here, too, was a chance for Mrs Bayliss to bid farewell to Curly. When she set off for Japan, her son thought that she might throw herself into her husband's watery grave. The voyage was, though, a healing experience. With the flowers she cast into the sea went all the crippling, illogical guilt of the survivor. "I felt so much... lighter... suddenly. When I went to Japan I was part Marion, part Curly. I realised I had been carrying him on my back for 14 years. Now I was Marion again, and Curly was part of my past."

Back in Corby, Mrs Bayliss assembled the collection of harrowing, and impressive, poems she had written in a sequence ending with her cathartic visit to Japan. It was in a sense the end of her story — but the *Derbyshire*'s final chapter could be written only in the proceedings of an inquiry like the one to be led by Lord Donaldson.

As Mrs Bayliss points out, the loss of a bulk carrier in distant waters is scarcely reported unless there is a risk of oil spillage that might harm a few penguins nearby. "People say — yes, honestly, I've heard them say it — that most of the 2,000 men lost come from Third World countries, where life is cheap. As if those deaths didn't matter to somebody just as much as Curly's matters to me." She will not let Lord Donaldson rest, I am sure, until he has made the seas safer for mariners.

● Dispatches: Channel 4, tomorrow, 9pm.

The second extract from *Faith in the Future*, the new book by Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, will appear in *The Times* tomorrow.

Feel like cuddling a colleague?

Hugging has no place in an office — let's bring back the crisp handshake

Ho ho ho. What fun we're all having over the Green Party's exhortations about the right and wrong way to hug. The correct embrace between colleagues is, I'll grant, a daft idea. But we're all so busy chortling with ridicule, as we congratulate ourselves for being hardy enough to survive the sort of no-nonsense lusty encounters that make the delicate Greens wilt merely to consider, that we fail to see the real idiosyncrasy: I mean, what is everyone doing hugging each other in the office anyway?

Words like inappropriate have the smack of the New Age puritan about them these days, but all this colleague-caressing that apparently goes on hardly seems appropriate behaviour to me. And one of the things that makes me suspicious about it is that — all the obvious and soon-to-flow revelations that will greet the release of *Disclosure* notwithstanding — it is always men who make a case for the respectability of physical displays of businesslike affection towards their female colleagues. You never hear a group of women moan about how unfair it is that they can't go up and hug the boys in bought ledger as and when they see fit.

On the whole, and sensibly enough, women do not want to go round flinging their arms around the men in the office. They are not having to restrain themselves. It is, frankly, not that tempting. Men, on the other hand, talk as if a little rub on the back there, a steering hand as one ambles, talking, down the corridor here or a physical demonstration of professional solidarity or admiration whenever the expansive mood takes one, is entirely natural. To thwart such behaviour or to talk of it as a "threat" is ludicrous or sad, depending on your point of view.

In a way, the men might be right here. Maybe it is entirely natural for men always to want to respond to women physically. Perhaps it is because men react to each

other with so little demonstrativeness that when they are with women, all their touchy-feeliness comes out in the open. They all want a cuddle from mummy.

Of course everyone has bought into the myth that to be uptight and English and unfashionable is a Bad Thing. The stiff upper lip is a thing of the past: every last one is puckered up for the squishiest of embraces. And you just can't stop the middle classes kissing each other these days.

Now, I don't really mind who kisses me. I'm such a coward I'll do anything not to embarrass or offend, even if it means putting up with any amount of inappropriate maulings, but I do think the routine shows of phoney affection that we now seem to have adopted as a universal form of greeting are probably best left to actors and hysterics. Though I am entirely culpable here, too. I kiss anyone without thinking, simply because not to do so might be thought of as unfriendly.

The difficulty is that we prize informality so highly now. Whenever I make an effort to resist all the back-slapping and space-invading that we mistakenly take for warmth, and offer a

crisply held-out hand instead, I am met with near-annusment. "How formal you are!" is what I am told nearly every time. Even those who are too old to have been drowned in the wave of pseudo-Gallic kissy-kissyness, and whose own day dictated a firm, enthusiastic handshake, have taken to administering a pincer grip somewhere between a hug and a pinch — to the upper arm, I've noticed. But just to the gels, too, understand.

All offices should be tense with the promise of illicit liaisons — that is really the point of them — but that is not to sanction too many overt expressions of affection between colleagues. The trouble is, everyone spends too much time in the office these days. Perhaps they should just get home more and start kissing their children instead.

The diagnosis we deserve

IN THE past few days, since I've been moaning — until this moment only privately — about being ill, I have noticed that although everyone seems to have exactly the same illness — sore throat, cough, temperature, rattling chest — everyone claims to be suffering from a different ailment. So far I've been assured by various brave and sick friends that they've got Asian flu, a pneumonia bug, sick building syndrome fallout, and stress-induced collapse. My own doctor was kind enough to tell me I had an inflammation of the trachea.

You remember that when, in London, there used to be the *Evening News* as well as the *Evening Standard*, news-

paper vendors would pride themselves on knowing instinctively which paper the approaching customer read and would hand over, unasked, the correct copy? Well, I have a feeling that with *This Thing That Is Going Around*, as my ailment is probably more precisely described, doctors decide on a particular diagnosis that best suits the temperament or neurosis of the patient in front of them.

I am grateful for my inflammation of the trachea — which is why, no doubt, my doctor gave me it — because otherwise I would have to say I had flu, which in turn just sounds as if one's being a drama queen — or a man — about a having a cold.



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The burden of Europe's debts

Tim Melville-Ross argues that monetary union would lumber Britain with many hidden costs

Debate about European monetary union has concentrated almost exclusively upon whether and at what point Britain should join and adopt a single currency. What is more, it has primarily concerned the political future of Europe, not the economic advantages and consequences.

Sunday's devaluation of the peseta and escudo is a sharp reminder that the real question is when, if ever, the European Union itself will be ready for EMU. Events in Spain and Portugal also show that it would be dangerous to put the debate on ice just because joining by 1997 or 1999 looks difficult. It was precisely because there was insufficient debate about the exchange-rate mechanism, and warnings about its economic consequences were ignored, that the experiment ended in fiasco.

In my view, a single currency cannot be made to work in Europe in the foreseeable future. Even on the basis of the convergence criteria in the Maastricht treaty, a number of countries, including Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy and Belgium, will be unable to join a monetary union for several years — perhaps decades.

One problem is that the Maastricht criteria themselves are not what they seem. Another is that there are a hundred-and-one other questions about the economic implications, and it is encouraging to note that this point is now accepted by, among others, the Governor of the Bank of England and the head of the Bundesbank.

The problem with the Maastricht criteria is that even if states do achieve the desired level of economic performance, there is no guarantee that an individual economy would continue to perform as virtuously.

The German view is that the criteria have to be met strictly, without fudges or excuses. The European Commission, on the other hand, exploiting the Maastricht treaty's lack of clarity, seeks to interpret the criteria flexibly, so that all but the most spendthrift and hopeless would qualify for membership.

The Commission decided that Ireland qualifies for membership, even though it had a debt-to-GDP ratio of 90 per cent in 1994, when the Maastricht criterion is 60 per cent. In the Commission's view, it is good enough that Ireland's debt is moving in the right direction.

Monetary union might well be achieved more quickly this way, but the potential damage if economies diverge once locked into a single currency would be horrendous.

Adopting a single currency could have serious consequences for mortgages, the cost of borrowing for individuals and businesses, pensions and the transfer of taxpayers' money between rich and poor nations. Conditions in the housebuying and consumer

finance markets differ significantly between EU countries. In Britain, for example, 80 per cent of all personal debt is in the form of mortgages, and 90 per cent of all mortgage debt is variable-rate. By contrast, most consumer debt in France and Germany is fixed-rate. So what would happen when the European central bank put up interest rates to control inflation? Simple. The British housebuyer would be hit far harder than his French or German counterparts, with devastating consequences for the British housing market. Which is not exactly the way to ensure even economic development across the Community.

Or consider pensions: Britain has more funded pension provision than the rest of the EU put together. Most of our future pension obligations are covered in this way. Not so France, Germany and Italy, which rely on pay-as-you-go schemes. The governments of these states are at their wits' ends trying to devise means of coping with the demographic timebomb which will mean that "somebody" will have to pay for the pensions of the increasing numbers retiring in the next 20-30 years.

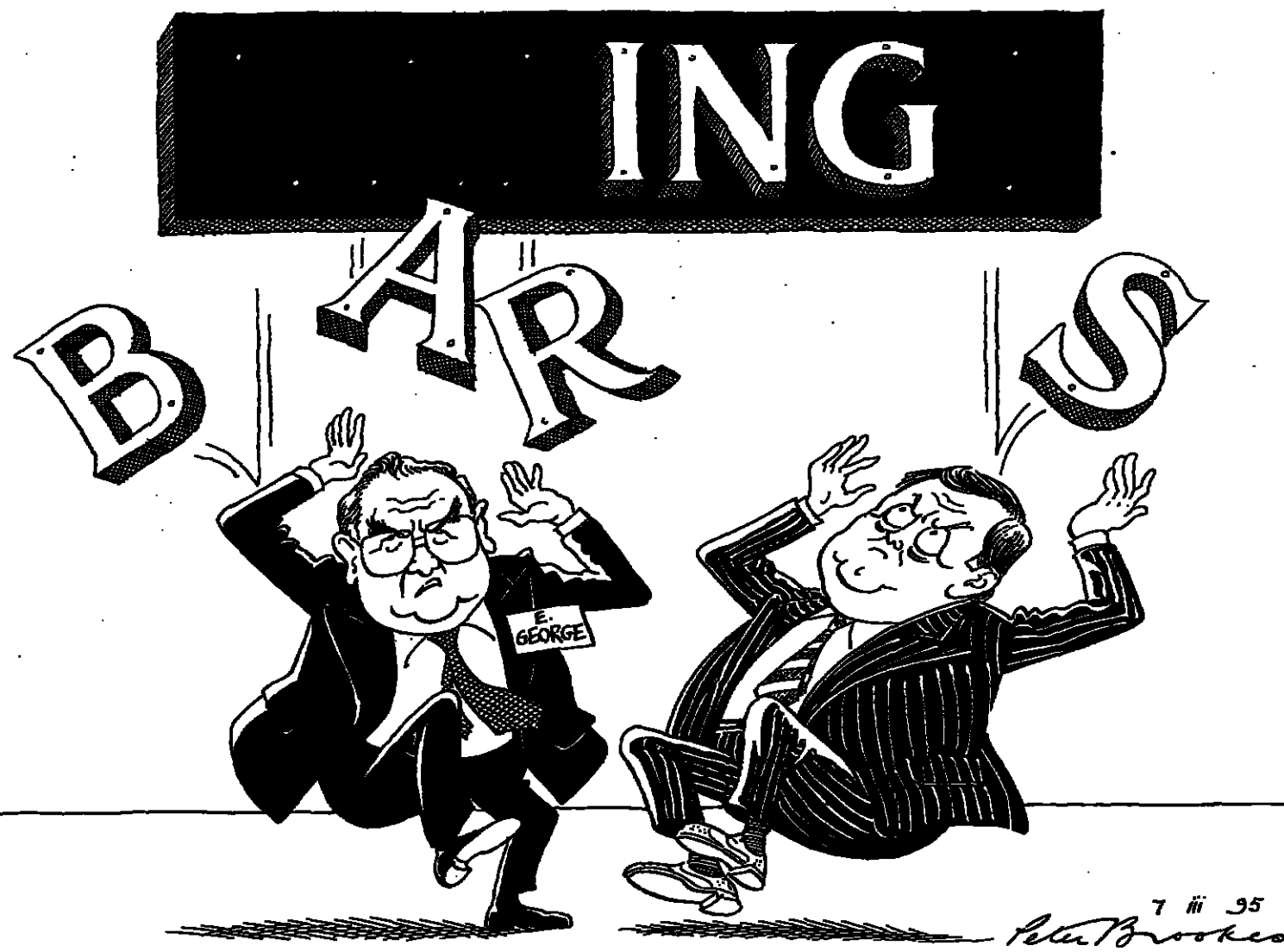
So who will pay? Governments will either have to tax more heavily or borrow on a huge scale. Higher borrowing means higher interest rates. Thus, within a European monetary union, Britain would find itself with higher interest rates as a result of higher borrowing elsewhere. Should monetary union lead to fiscal union, British citizens might also find themselves paying higher taxes to subsidise pensioners abroad.

The structure of trade outside the European Union also needs to be considered. Were a European single currency to harden against the dollar, for instance, the countries most dependent on dollar exports would suffer disproportionately. As an oil-producing nation and a significant exporter to the US, Britain would be one of the losers.

Higher transfers of taxpayers' money between richer and poorer countries in the EU will be required to subsidise jobs and to equalise prosperity. This sounds a fine objective, but what will be its impact on the economies of the donor nations? And anyway, does it work? If all the money poured into the south of Italy had had the desired effect, it would now be one of the most prosperous regions in the EU.

We are being asked to take a step in the dark. The last time we ran into trouble with a pan-European economic mechanism the markets saved us by blowing us out of the ERM. But if we abandoned our national currency, there would be no escape. So it is imperative that no decision be taken before the issues are all understood.

The author is Director-General of the Institute of Directors.



Beggars can be choosers

Being asked for money in the street gives us all a frisson of shame, but some people elect this way of life

I m'est permis de reprendre mon bien où je le trouve. (Molière, but, surprisingly, post mortem.) But all that means is that I am on the trail of an idea. Now my regular readers will know that anything — anything — can be made into edible newsprint, given enough ingenuity. Just heat the oven, cover the pan, simmer as directed, and lo! your plate will be decorated with the oddest creatures.

Columnists of my sort bring out the kindness in our readers, who are always asking, in amazement, how we can keep thinking up ideas for articles. But the world is so crammed with interesting things that whatever problems we columnists have, we never find ourselves at a lack of matter. This, of course, is because we have been given one great and wonderful boon — that we can write about anything and everything, in 1,500 words. Not long ago, indeed, I wrote my two-thousandth article, and I am still amazed in the knowledge that nobody has seen fit to make up a lynch-mob and get to work. While on the subject, I might as well make full confession: before I joined *The Times*, I had been writing in the *Daily Mail* no fewer than five times a week, on top of being that paper's theatre critic. Wherever did they get enough beautiful trees to cut down?

And while I am still reminiscing, I have another picture in my mind's eye: the *Mail* had given me for my space the first column on the inside page; it ran down almost to the bottom of the page, but not quite; my precious words regularly sat upon the advertisement for Bile Beans. (Are there still ads for Bile Beans in the *Mail*? Are there Bile Beans at all? What was, or is, a Bile Bean, anyway?) But this time, I have been almost stumped with the richness of two items which turned out to fit perfectly. Both of these scraps were to be found in Paris, and were taken from the *Herald Tribune* (oh, yes, I munch my fodder where I find it, though I do acknowledge, and anyway years ago I used to write regularly for the *Trib* so they would forgive me, to say nothing of the fact that the *Trib* would probably be pleased by the sideways compliment), and I must give you an idea of what these two stories hold for us.

The first is in the first person, and the person's name is Sarah Baldwin-Beneich — not easily forgotten once remembered in the first place. We know that Mrs Baldwin-Beneich is a

Mrs, because when the curtain goes up Mrs B is looking for a McDonald's to share with her two-year-old son. But neither mother nor son managed to get more than one bite, because

Someone came along who needed a Happy Meal even more than we did, a woman who looked at us with such a mixture of envy and dignity that the natural thing to do was to offer her our food. The three of us sat together in silence while she ate. Then she nodded her thanks and we went our separate ways.

Immediately, the problem of begging raises its head, but I do not mean that we must think about begging, though we have to; no, it is not the beggar but the begged-from — you and I — who twist upon the rack. How do we cope, or fail to cope, with the beggar's importunity?

But we must go back some way before we try to answer that question, because modern begging in Britain is a very recent phenomenon, and professional begging even more recent. That came, of course, from the United States, and America pioneered not only professional begging, but the more recondite version called "clean begging", in which the beggar (almost always young) is simply but clearly dressed with hair obviously washed, and even more obviously not starving. I have not yet seen that in Britain, but it can hardly be long till it arrives.

Again, the doorway sleepers are a recent sight, though there must have been many homeless people long before the idea caught on. Our embarrassment — for we certainly are embarrassed — is heightened by the correct conviction that many of the apparently hopeless down-and-outs are not beggars at all, but prefer to get money in a different way. Yet, until the Government gives out two kinds of lapel-badges, one meaning "Genuinely starving" and the other meaning "I'm taking you lot for a

sucker", we cannot distinguish between the two. I come back to Mrs Baldwin-Beneich:

If you're walking down a sidewalk that a man is living on, then no matter how little you have, you still have more than he. That is why I put small change in my pocket before going out. It is not a habit born of high principles or self-righteous morality. It is simply a natural reaction to an intolerable fact of life... My critics say "It doesn't help". But does it hurt?

Now we go to Paris, where such things are put upon a very different and very Parisian footing.

Philippe Hermand wants everyone to know that he is not one of the do-gooders, the scraggly outcasts who sleep on the streets or under the bridges. He makes it plain. "I sleep in the street, but I get up every morning, wash and shave, and take care of myself," he said. "If there's a blowup, I'll be out there with them... but I'm not just France. It's a worldwide crisis."

Indeed it is. M Hermand makes his living by getting up early to put pay-and-display tickets on car windshields for his clients, the bourgeoisie, so enabling them to stay in bed another hour or two. Nothing wrong with that; a service is wanted, and it is paid for. Being Paris, of course, there are laughs, but 5,000 to 7,000 sleeping in the streets is not very funny. No, but it is very like London, and London is very like New York.

M Chirac finally requisitioned several hundred vacant apartments for the homeless... But there is widespread public cynicism about whether the candidates will do anything meaningful about the homeless problem after the elections.

We go back to Mrs B, and those who look down on her because she is not helping the poor. Or rather, because she is helping the poor in the wrong way. But Mrs B argues that what the poor want is help, and they don't mind if it doesn't have the proper stamp on it. I confess that I,

too, find myself embarrassed when the beggar holds out his cup; I tried to break the deadlock by giving a very large sum of money to that admirable enterprise *The Big Issue*, but it only made things worse, because I could hardly tell the sellers "I've already paid", and my discomfort is no less painful.

Come back again to Mrs B. She says:

Who truly believes that beggars and homeless people could be somewhere else, doing something else? Does anyone really think they like spending their days underground or on the street, hand out and palm up, while a thousand backs turn? Most of them probably would prefer to be elsewhere, occupied with other things. But where is it written that a person must earn compassion, anyway?

There is only one flaw in Mrs B's argument: there are people who prefer begging as a trade, even if they could have real employment. I recall the short story by Israel Zangwill, "The King of the Schnorrers" (schnorrer is Yiddish for beggar) in which the schnorrer announces that he will schnorr a hundred pounds for his daughter's wedding, and is as good as his word. The young man I mentioned was such a man — no nine to five for him, and he was plainly enjoying his curious trade. What would she say to that? Well, I think I know what she would not say. She would not upbraid anyone, even the "sturdy beggar", though I think she might offer up a prayer for him. Because, you see, there is a twist in the story; the lady bountiful is herself poor. Not so poor as to seek a bed on a park bench, but poor enough to be wearing shoes five years old, without the money for a new pair.

Will this story make me — or you — less embarrassed when asked for alms by a beggar? If we contribute, is it really to clean our consciences? Does it matter if the beggar is helped? Does it matter if the beggar turns out to be fake? If there is a line of beggars, should we give alms to them all? How much should we give a beggar? After all, we can hardly stop to test the validity of the beggar's claim.

For that matter "Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." I rather think that Mrs Baldwin-Beneich has done that more than once. But even if she has, it doesn't ease our embarrassment.

What did Lamont expect?

Robert Rhodes James on political friendships

There is enduring truth in Churchill's dictum that in politics, and particularly at the top, there are no friends. It was certainly true in his case, for men who had thought themselves his friends found themselves dropped when their usefulness was over; but Churchill, outside his immediate family circle, was fundamentally a lonely man, who had colleagues and acquaintances rather than friends, and especially in politics, with the notable exception of F.E. Smith, whom Mrs Churchill rightly regarded as a bad influence on her husband.

Politics for the ambitious is a cruelly competitive business, with few rules and little mercy. In the sombre words of Francis Bacon: "There is little friendship in the world, and least of all between equals." There are some successful politicians who cross what Rosebery called "this evil-smelling bog" with dignity and disdain, and have friends and interests outside politics, but they are unusual. It is much more common for political contemporaries to start out as friends and then to become rivals and finally enemies. Those left behind in the race harbour jealous thoughts, rejoicing less at their colleagues' successes than in their misfortunes.

These pressures inevitably increase in the higher reaches of politics, and there are some famous examples of deep mutual hostility between allied allies: Rosebery and Harcourt, Asquith and Lloyd George, Bonar Law and Churchill, Bevin and Morrison, Eden and Macmillan, Callaghan and Castle, Thatcher and Gilmour all spring to mind.

In Norman Lamont's case, his first mistake was not to insist on resigning over Black Wednesday, particularly because it later transpired that he had been deeply uncomfortable about membership of the exchange-rate mechanism. His second was not to accept the Cabinet post that he was offered when the Prime Minister decided that he wanted another Chancellor. His third was to make an embittered resignation statement. When Selwyn Lloyd was arbitrarily and brutally sacked by Macmillan, together with a third of the Cabinet, he was intensely bitter. He spent rather more time than he should have in Annie's Bar and the smoking room, but kept a loyal silence in public. Within weeks, a contrite Macmillan was pondering in his diary some future employment and role for his dismissed Chancellor. Selwyn came back spectacularly, first as Leader of the House and then Speaker. That was the example that Lamont should have followed, was advised to follow and yet ignored.

The remarkable thing about John Major's meteoric rise was that he made no enemies and many friends on the way, which could not be said of any of his postwar predecessors as Prime Minister. One factor, I suspect, is that only a few very shrewd judges rated him as a real challenger, even after he became Chancellor.

It is arguable that John Major over-rewarded Norman Lamont for his role in the leadership crisis of 1990 by making him Chancellor, but Lamont had been his Chief Secretary at the Treasury and presumably agreed wholeheartedly with his policies, including entry into the ERM. He later played what was considered an important and wholly supportive role at Maastricht, and an effective one in the 1992 election. It was then that the shadows began to fall.

John Major's loyalty to his friends is one of his most endearing qualities, together with his genuine kindness and sense of humour. He has changed less in his high office than any Prime Minister I have known. But there does come a moment when the national or party interest comes first, and the fact was that Norman Lamont no longer commanded any confidence — either nationally or internationally — as Chancellor. This may have been a harsh perception, but it was a reality. And Prime Ministers have to deal with realities. Lamont's next mistake was not to recognise this; he considers himself a wronged man, the architect of our great economic recovery who has received no credit for his achievements. So he has moved into new fields of political controversy. I used to be involved in Northern Ireland affairs — especially higher education — and was, and remain, a strong Unionist, although I welcome recent initiatives. But I do not recall Norman Lamont demonstrating any interest in these matters, in private or in public, until after his departure from the Government. Nor did I detect any serious differences over European issues. Of course consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, and I have been rather inconsistent myself on occasion, but there are limits.

To return to Bacon: "The rising into place is laborious, and by pains men come to greater pains; and it is sometimes base, and by indignities men come to dignities. The standing is slippery, and the regress is either a downfall, or at least an eclipse." But who reads Bacon nowadays?

Sir Robert Rhodes James was Conservative MP for Cambridge, 1976-92.

Banker bites back

BRITISH bankers are under scrutiny as never before after the collapse of Barings. But they are fighting back. A Brit in New York is suing the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for alleged racial discrimination. The lawsuit has been filed by Russell Deakin, who was a trader with the bank until January. Whether he left voluntarily is not clear, but he claims the bank and its French managing director in New York humiliated him into leaving.

The lawsuit alleges that British employees, or those of British origin, were "constantly derided about their race and national origin, in contrast to their counterpart employees of French origin".

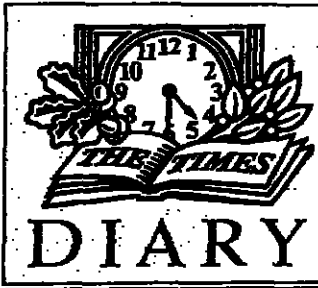
The claim is that George Courtard labelled the English lazy, unproductive, culturally inferior, bad dressers, arrogant, terrible cooks and "aggressive, uncultured people who kill each other in the soccer stands".

Lawyers at the bank were unavailable for comment, but are said to be fighting the claim. Deakin is seeking more than \$30 million in compensatory and punitive damages. Evidently he can play them at their own game.

Linford Christie, who confirmed yesterday that he was pulling out of the World Indoor Championships in Barcelona, is already dabbling in extra-curricular activities. BBC2 has signed him up to read William Blake's *The Tyger* in a new education series.

Whipped up
DISAPPOINTMENT in Oxford, where Norman Lamont had been

I BOUGHT THIS FOR NICK WITH MY BONUS



invited to take part in a full and frank exchange of views over Europe tonight. Students claim that he cancelled his talk to the university's European Affairs Society at short notice under pressure from the whips. He begs to differ.

"He was our biggest speaker of the term," says Axel Wabenhorst at Wolfson College, who was organising the event. "I spoke to his secretary, who said that the whips wouldn't let him leave London. I think they fear what he might say." Lamont denies cancelling the date. "I am still doing it. A date has been fixed, but it is not tonight."

Egged on

AFTER he had worked for the family bank for just a couple of years in Liverpool and New York, Rupert Barling, the 4th Baron Revelstoke,

retired to live the life of a recluse in Ireland on Lambay Island, off the coast of Co Dublin. But he did not entirely lose the financial acumen for which his family were once famous.

On Sunday, Ulick O'Connor, recalled meeting the baron before his death last year, clutching a basket of guillemot eggs from the island's cliffs on his way to sell them to a Dublin hotel. However, his heart did overcome his head, O'Connor said, when the reclusive peer turned down a lucrative offer from a Japanese importer to supply certain parts of a seal, which the Japanese regarded as a potent aphrodisiac. "He loved those seals too much to do it," insisted the writer.

Trodden toes

ROYAL staying-power was plain for all to see yesterday when Princess Christina of Sweden flew into London to prepare the way for the Royal Swedish Ballet's first trip to Britain. "I was up before dawn, but it was worth it," she explained. "I became patron of the company so that I could come along to all these events."

Simon Mottram, the company's artistic director, has also been through something of an endurance test. Eight of his female dancers are on maternity leave, and



Kim Young Sam: waving through

four of their partners are with them on maternity leave. "When the last one came to tell me," he says, "she dumped a bottle of vodka on the table before she told me. It eased the blow." But Mottram has yet to call on the services of the princess, who trained as a ballerina.

Korea move

THE PRESIDENT of South Korea, Kim Young Sam, has been in training for his visit to London this week. He has been practising his wave. Back home, he hails his ad-

mirers with a sign that could be mistaken for a Fascist salute, but now he is adopting a regal wave to avoid offence.

Other preparations for the visit include an inspection of the band before it plays the South Korean anthem at a luncheon in London's Mansion House. This should avert the embarrassment caused a few years back on a state visit to the Continent, when a band struck up as the President arrived — and cheerfully played the wrong anthem.

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

LORD BENSON

Lord Benson, GBE, chartered accountant and former adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England, died on March 5 aged 85. He was born on August 2, 1909.

FEW men outside Whitehall can have had more influence on public affairs in postwar Britain than Henry Benson. As senior partner in the firm of Coopers & Lybrand, he built up an international reputation as one of the most formidable accountants of his time. Outside his profession, however, he was best known for his work on a bewildering variety of committees and public bodies. Taxation, transport, energy and horse racing, defence procurement, housing, education and the law were among the policy areas and industries which at one time or another Benson scrutinised.

He built up an impressive store of expertise as one of Britain's top investigative accountants. This led in 1964 to his appointment as a Board of Trade inspector looking into the collapse of Rolls Royce and to his 18-year membership of the investment fraud tribunal.

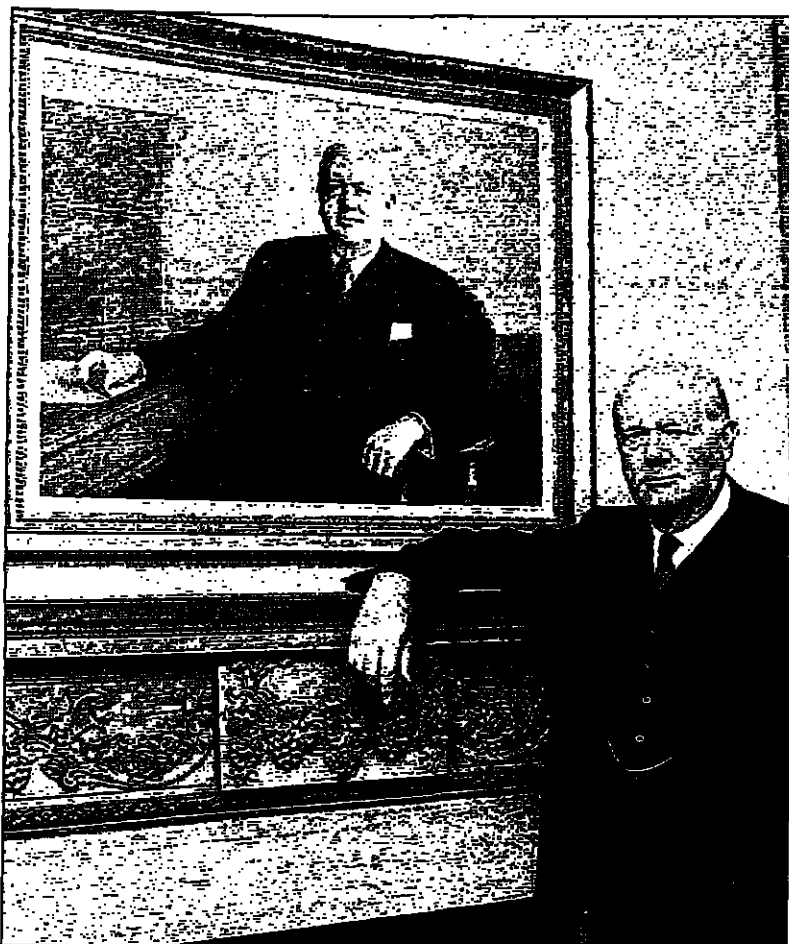
But the work which perhaps gave him greatest satisfaction was that as chairman of the International Accounting Standards Committee in the early 1970s. His achievement in harmonising systems throughout the world did much to raise the status of his profession.

Henry Alexander Benson was born in South Africa. His father, a solicitor, had emigrated from this country, while his mother was a Cooper before her marriage — daughter of one of the founders of Cooper Brothers — then a small but highly respected firm of accountants.

It was in order to join this family company in London that Benson came to Britain at the age of 18, following his schooling in Johannesburg. He was a partner within three years of qualifying.

On the outbreak of the Second World War he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and, as a second lieutenant, was soon patrolling the walls of Windsor Castle with an empty revolver, protecting the two Princesses who were then living there.

In 1943, however, Benson was plucked from his battalion and seconded to the Ministry of Supply to advise on the reorganising of the accounts of the Royal Ordnance Factories (ROFs).



which were then in a chaotic state. He was subsequently appointed director of the ROFs to carry out his own recommendations. He later recalled striding through the factories, still wearing his battledress — complete with cane.

He briefly served in Washington towards the end of the war, before being drafted to Cairo as an acting brigadier. There he helped to wind down Allied operations in the Eastern Mediterranean, including Greece.

He was appointed CBE for his work there. On leaving the Army himself he rejoined Cooper Brothers and started a rapid programme of expansion. Benson helped to shake up the old firm "until it rattled". This led to the 1957 link-up with the American firm of Lybrand, although the two companies traded under their separate names until 1973.

At about the same time, however,

Benson also started to expand his own career. As early as 1945 he was invited to advise the new Labour Government on housing production and two years later he joined Crawley Development Corporation. In 1953 he was made deputy chairman of the Fleck Committee which was looking at the organisation of the National Coal Board. Other similar appointments quickly followed.

Studies of Northern Ireland's railways, the New Zealand fruit trade and the transformation of coal into oil, chemicals and gas (the Wilson committee) were succeeded by an invitation from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1963 to examine the impact of a tax on companies' turnover.

The dockyards, the Ministry of Defence and the National Trust, the Open University (he was treasurer at one time) and even *The Times* (he belonged to *The Times* Trust 1967-81) were among the areas he entered as his

column in *Who's Who* steadily lengthened. His directorships included the Hudson's Bay Company, the Finance Corporation for Industry, the Commercial Finance Corporation and Hawker Siddeley.

Honours were meanwhile heaped on him. Knighted in 1964, he was created GBE in 1971 and a life peer ten years later. But most of his committee work was unpaid.

Retiring from Coopers & Lybrand in 1975, Benson was soon snapped up by his friend Gordon Richardson, then Governor of the Bank of England, to work there as an industrial adviser for seven years — at a time of great upheavals in British industry.

His chairmanship of the Royal Commission on Legal Services, which imposed a punishing workload between 1976 and 1979, was his last great public service of that kind.

Benson continued to be active in the House of Lords, however, speaking frequently on industrial issues and on the incidence of fraud in the European Union.

He was sufficiently interested in racing to work closely with the then Duke of Norfolk, a personal friend, to put up a new stand at Ascot in the 1970s. His other recreations included sailing, gardening and shooting.

He inherited from his uncle the shooting rights on the Drovers estate near Chichester, West Sussex, and in 1984 received some unsought publicity after sacking his head gamekeeper. The gamekeeper, who had taken his mistress to live with him in his tied cottage, took Benson to an industrial tribunal — but Benson won.

Not that Benson had much time for recreation. He worked to an intimidating schedule which took up his weekends and, at the age of 80, wrote and published his autobiography, *Accounting for Life*. He could quote extensively from poets like Tennyson and Wordsworth — and always paid tribute to his education in South Africa.

A tall, big, strong man both in terms of his physique and personality, he could seem an intimidating figure in most respects. His apparent severity and conservatism, however, cloaked a deeply-seated sense of humanity and humour.

His austerity was also counterbalanced by his outgoing, warm-hearted wife Ginny, whom he married in 1939 and who travelled with him everywhere. They had two sons and a daughter.

JACK PITCHFORD

Jack Pitchford, CBE, engineer, died on February 24 aged 90. He was born on August 30, 1904.



IN A career spent entirely with one firm, Ricardo Consulting Engineers, Jack Pitchford played an important role in the development of high-speed diesel engines for both cars and light craft. In the 1960s, as managing director and chairman of Ricardo, he spent most of his time leading a small, close-knit team advising clients throughout the world on all aspects of internal combustion engineering.

Jack Pitchford came from a family with a strong tradition of engineering. His maternal grandfather, Wilson "Pasha", had commissioned the first iron *dahabeyah* (a large Nile sailing boat) so it was natural that Pitchford should become an engineer too. He took great pride in that professional title and great exception to the way in which its currency has now been debased and used by those without proper engineering training.

John Hereward Pitchford was born in Penarth, South Wales. But shortly thereafter his father died and his mother moved to the Sussex coast, where he was to spend the rest of his life. After attending Brighton College he went up to Christ's College, Cambridge, to read engineering. By his own account he enjoyed Cambridge life to the full and as a result only just scraped a degree. But when he came down in 1926 his stepfather, who was a partner in Rendel, Palmer & Tritton, obtained an introduction for him to Harry Ricardo and he went to work

in his design office and laboratory at Shoreham-by-Sea.

Pitchford proved himself to be a sound and inventive engineer, although he would have been the first to admit that he was not in the class of Ricardo himself. But he had other qualities, including a natural ability to get on with people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities, coupled with a gift for gentle persuasion. These qualities made him an effective manager and a highly successful promoter of the Ricardo services not only in this country, but in Europe and further afield. He worked, for example, with Citroën to produce in 1936 one of the first diesel-engined cars to be placed on the market.

During the Second World War the "works" were evacuated from the coast to the safer environs of Oxford, where most of their efforts were deployed on aircraft engine design and development. Pitchford himself also played a particularly prominent part at that time in the develop-

ment of engines for motor torpedo boats. After the war, when Ricardos returned to Shoreham, he became managing director and picked up the threads of the commercial application of the Ricardo-designed Comet combustion system for small diesel engines.

Thanks to his extensive travelling, which involved him in visiting all the major motor engine manufacturers in this country, mainland Europe, the United States, India and Japan, Comet attained an important share of the market. In 1962 Ricardos became a public company and Pitchford became chairman, an office he held until 1976. During that time he oversaw a big expansion of Ricardos, in terms of plant, equipment and staff, but more importantly in its client base. In 1971 he was appointed CBE for his services to export.

His fellow engineers also recognised his worth. Between 1961 and 1963 he was president of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Ingénieurs des Techniques de l'Automobile and in 1962 of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. In 1980 he was elected to the Fellowship of Engineering (now the Royal Academy of Engineering).

Pitchford had many interests outside engineering, including music and sailing. In his earlier years he had been a keen rugby player. He was a kind and generous man with an interest in other people, especially aspiring young engineers.

Pitchford married Betty Pensotti in 1930; she died in 1991 and he is survived by their son and two daughters.

THELMA HULBERT

Thelma Hulbert, artist, died at Honiton, Devon, on February 17 aged 81. She was born on November 10, 1913.



THELMA HULBERT's name was inextricably linked with those of Victor Pasmore, William Coldstream and Claude Rogers, the founders of the Euston Road school of drawing and painting, which flourished briefly in Fitzrovia in the late 1930s, and for which Hulbert acted as organising secretary. Elsie Fawcett, the wife of Claude Rogers, described Hulbert as the "hinge upon which the whole school hung, the one person who was always there".

The school's guiding principles, as much political as artistic, were based on the idea that artists needed to renounce Surrealism, Cubism and other contemporary fashions and get back to recording things objectively. Work took place in two large, sparsely-furnished rooms over a pin-table saloon on the north side of Euston Road, with Hulbert stationed at a table near the entrance to the studio, greeting students and radiating, as one recalled, "shy, contained, unassuming affability".

She was a striking woman, with black hair, dark eyes and a distinctive way of dressing, and she made an excellent artist's model. Pasmore painted a particularly lovely portrait of her seated in a high-backed Victorian armchair, looking very serious and young.

Hulbert's own talents as an artist tended to be underrated, partly because of her reticence with art dealers and her lack of interest in the commercial aspects of art. Her subjects, too, were largely domestic interiors decorated with windows, screens, blinds and flowers, or creatures such as fish, birds and moths. Because of this, she ran the danger of being dismissed as "feminine".

In fact, she painted very well, and in something of the style of Bonnard or the later Turner. Like Turner, she was expert at conveying space, air and light, and she did not need

to drench a canvas in paint in order to ensure that a particular tone achieved its proper impact.

She was born in Bath, an only child of English parents, but with French and Spanish ancestry. She studied at the Bath School of Art before moving to London in 1934, where she met Pasmore, Coldstream and Rogers. Her painting was at first subsidised by teaching dance classes — poverty being one of the many things she had in common with the founding triumvirate of the Euston Road school. Though the latter were in the patronage of an older generation of Bloomsbury artists to help with the rent of the Euston Road studios.

Hulbert spent the war years feeding Spanish refugees in a London canteen and helping animals caught up in the Blitz. The school never recovered from the interruption of the war — one of its leading exponents, Graham Bell, was killed in the RAF and Victor Pasmore made a startling conversion to abstract painting.

monarchical system of this Continent it is very much easier to do so if the ruler of the smaller State bears an inferior title, a title which seems to imply a kind of vassalage to some overlord or other. The change of title, then, which has taken place in Rumania and in Serbia is the official guarantee of the independence promised in the Berlin settlement. The peculiar importance of the step, in the case of Serbia and at this particular moment, must be apparent to every one. The PRINCE of SERBIA has been long and anxiously striving to get the honour conferred on him, or rather, to get the consent of his powerful neighbours to the step. Austria, it was understood, held back; she wished for guarantees or she wished for terms. Suddenly, and without a moment's warning, the Skupschina proclaims the PRINCE King of Serbia, and the Austrian representative hastens to the Palace with the congratulations of the EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH. It is evident that this means that the terms have been arranged. Austria is in the crisis of her struggle with the revolted provinces. It is of the highest importance for Austria to secure not only the neutrality, but the benevolent neutrality of Serbia; and this we may assume her to have secured by granting the claim of the Prince to the Royal title...

ON THIS DAY

March 7 1882

Serbia, with other Balkan states, was part of the Ottoman empire from the 15th century, but in the late 19th century she became subject to the turbulent politics of Austria and Russia. In 1899 King Milan abdicated in favour of his son Alexander.

A kingdom is an event of considerable political importance. It is the natural and logical consequence of the elevation of the PRINCE of ROUMANIA, and both must be regarded as the direct outcome of the war. For, to change a Prince into a King is more than a mere change of name and more than a personal advance in dignity, such as the change of an English Marquis into a Duke. It sets the seal of monarchical Europe upon the independence of the new kingdom. It is often easy, no doubt, for a great State to absorb a small and insignificant neighbour; but under the

SERBIA BERLIN, March 6. The news of the elevation of Serbia to a kingdom has taken Berlin somewhat by surprise. It was known, of course, that negotiations on the subject had been in progress for some time back between the Government of Prince Milan and the Powers, but people were not prepared for such a sudden lifting of the curtain and a fait accompli. It is known that Germany and Austria were agreed on the question in the main. The reception accorded to Prince Milan when he visited this Court last year in the course of his canvassing tour among the European Courts left no doubt as to how the two imperial allies had resolved to give their vote.

An event which has long been planned, talked about, and regarded as probable, has suddenly come to pass. Yesterday the Skupschina unanimously offered the Royal dignity to PRINCE MILAN, who accepted it, and was at once proclaimed King of Serbia. The new KING, whose name was so brought prominently before the world by the events of 1876-7, is a member of the OBRENOVITCH family and is a cousin of the late PRINCE MICHAEL who was assassinated in 1888. The conversion of the principality into a

HUGO COLE

Hugo Cole, music critic, died on March 2 aged 77. He was born on July 6, 1917.

WHILE most orchestral musicians graduate from their chosen college before entering an orchestra, Hugo Cole was appearing in the cello section of the Hallé long before he entered the Royal College of Music. But after a short period as a musician and as a highly-productive composer he spent the last 30 years entertaining readers of *The Guardian*, *Country Life* and other publications with his extensive and knowledgeable music criticism. These were authoritative and intellectual yet never carried any air of pedantry or pretentiousness.

The son of a prosperous Wagner-loving barrister, who

specialised in marriage settlements, Hugo Cole was blessed with an enthusiastic pianist teacher and, when he went to Winchester, learnt the horn and cello as well as actively participating in the school choir. Declining the opportunity to take his musical studies to a higher level, Cole read natural sciences at King's College, Cambridge, followed by a year doing research into the movement of cockroaches' legs.

As a conscientious objector, Cole applied to join the Friends Ambulance Unit during the Second World War but was turned down on the ground of his appalling stammer. Over the years he endured numerous treatments for this impediment but it was at the suggestion of his wife Gwyneth, whom he married

in 1949, that Cole became interested in the Alexander Technique. This method of relaxation, practised today by many musicians, freed up his entire body posture and ultimately led to near-perfect speech when he attained his mid-forties.

Although he had opted for the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge, Cole was nevertheless a musician of sufficient standard to freelance in the cello section of both the Hallé Orchestra and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company during the war. His entry to the Royal College of Music in 1944 — in order, he claimed, to learn how to play the instrument properly — opened an entire new world to him. He studied the cello with Ivor James, harmony with R.O. Morris, and composition with Herbert

Howells and also spent two valuable and enjoyable summers in Paris studying composition with Nadia Boulanger, who would often insist that he came for his lessons at 6.30am. Her coaching was to have an important influence on his compositions.

After he left the Royal College, performance quickly lost its attraction for Cole, although he continued to freelance with various London orchestras. Instead, he became a prolific composer writing a great deal of music for amateur choirs (which he felt were often neglected by others). Five of his seven operas — for some of which he also wrote the librettos — were written for children, including *Asses' Ears* in 1950 for Rokeby Preparatory School in Wimbledon. In 1959 he won the

John Lewis Partnership prize for *The Tunnel*, another opera for large voices, in this case predominantly male voices.

His composition was decidedly English and, as a result, Cole found himself swimming against an avant garde tide. Once he was appointed to be a critic on *The Guardian* in 1965, he effectively gave up the writing of music altogether (although a final children's opera, *The Fair Traders*, and a piece for chamber orchestra, *Winter Meetings* did appear in the early 1970s).

Cole later confessed that he found writing notes very difficult whereas words seemed to come to him easily. With his stammer cured, Cole had no problem dictating overnight copy. He soon became appreciated as a well-informed and knowledgeable critic.

He wrote four books including *Sounds and Signs* (1975), a study of modern notation, *The Changing Face of Music* (1978) and an appreciation of Malcolm Arnold, a composer whom he greatly admired. Cole's writing frequently appeared in other publications and he was well loved for his page in *Country Life* which he never quite managed to let go of, despite frequently asking colleagues if they would like to take it over.

Musical was very much at the centre of Hugo Cole's life. Regularly turning up for the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall on a bicycle, he was a shy, unassuming character who was held in high regard by all sectors of the music profession. He enjoyed the company of a close circle of friends with whom he would often play chamber music for pleasure.

He is survived by his wife Gwyneth and their two daughters.

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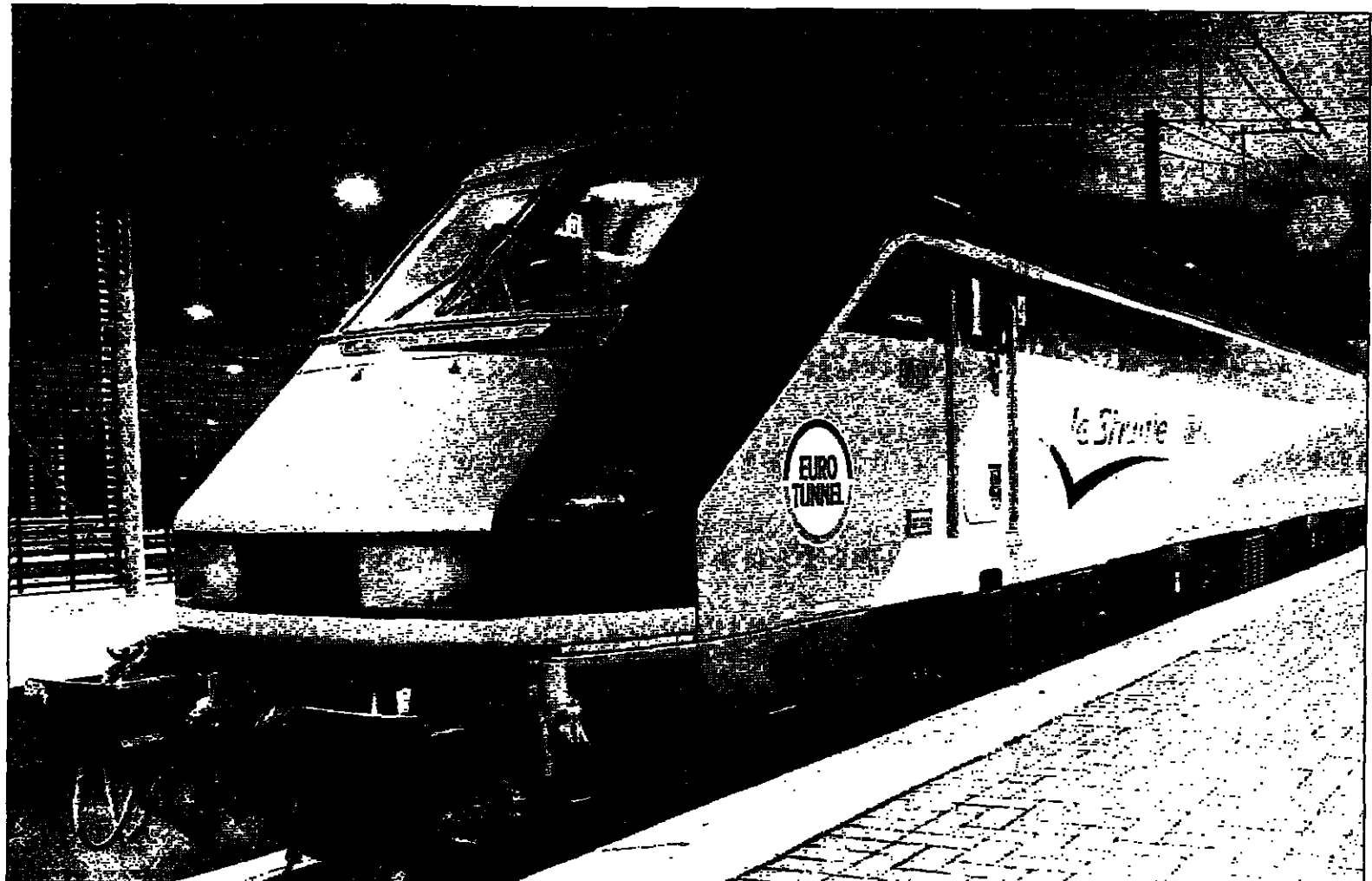
you will also receive a voucher worth £50 if you decide to buy a full language course.

Languages covered by the courses include Afrikaans, Arabic, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Icelandic, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croat, Spanish, Latin American Spanish, Swedish, Thai and Welsh.

There is still time for readers to book their holiday at a 20 per cent discount or qualify for a weekend break for 20p. The booking deadline for this recent offer, which included a huge variety of holidays from leading operators, has been extended to March 31, 1995.

For holiday brochures and details, call Cox & Kings on 0171-573 5005. If you have missed the tokens you can still qualify for the offer by sending four *Times* mastheads with your booking form.

Last week's audio books offer is still open. Buy one unabridged book from a list of 200 volumes and you can buy a second of up to eight cassettes for just 20p. For full details ring 0800 136 919. If you missed this promotion you can still participate by sending eight *Times* mastheads with your order.



Le Shuttle: a car and all passengers for £75 return, and for just 20p you can buy £20 worth of duty-free goods

Duty-free bonanza

THE first of this week's 20p offers brings you the opportunity to travel on Le Shuttle, the new and exciting route to France. Collect four of the six tokens which are appearing this week and next Monday, buy a Try The Tunnel break and you can receive £20 worth of duty-free goods for just 20p.

Eurotunnel's new service is the quickest and easiest way to drive to the continent and readers can enjoy exceptional value with this exclusive short break offer from EuroDrive. The spacious Le Shuttle passenger terminal at Folkestone features shops, restaurants, telephones, toilets, ample parking and, of course, the Duty & Tax Free Shop.

Stock up on a wide range of duty-free goods — wines, spirits, liquors, tobacco, perfumes or gifts — and *The Times* will take care of the first £20 of your bill for 20p.

All you need to do to take advantage of this great offer is to buy a short break return ticket (five-day duration for a car and all passengers) for

travel before April 30 1995 at £75 (the normal fare in April is £150).

You will automatically receive a pack containing your duty-free voucher with your tickets. The offer excludes travel on April 14, 15 and 16.

As a special bonus, readers of *The Times* will receive an accommodation brochure and two vouchers with every booking, entitling them and a guest to a 50 per cent discount on the standard rate for a twin or double room for up to three nights at more than 170 hotels in eight European countries.

Readers are not obliged to redeem these vouchers with the tunnel offer; they can be used at any time throughout the year and are ideal for either overnight stops on the way to a main holiday destination, or for a short break.

Many of the hotels are in the main sightseeing centres of France, Holland and Germany and they can also be found in five other European countries.

You book your chosen hotel

Your 20p gateway to learning new languages

TO KNOW the country, first know the language. *The Times*, in conjunction with Linguaphone, the world's leading language company, now offers you that opportunity for just a few pence.

Buy one Linguaphone Traveller's Guide for £2.79 and you can buy another for 20p. If you then go on to buy a full language course you will receive a reduction of £50 on normal prices that start from £170 — and receive a free personal stereo.

The Traveller's Guide is the ideal way to familiarise yourself with the essential words and phrases you will need for

your next trip abroad. The guide contains a 70-minute bilingual language cassette which offers a good basic introduction to the language and is ideal for use in the car or on a personal stereo. With the cassette comes a words and phrases guide, featuring a printed list of the most important words and phrases in the cassette. In its convenient pocket-size form, the guide ensures you will always have the right phrase at your fingertips.

Traveller's Guides are available in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek and Portuguese.

A voucher worth £50 is included in the pack, redeemable against the purchase of one of Linguaphone's more detailed language courses.

The company offers a choice of 30 languages and a selection of course formats that includes tapes, CDs and videos. With a Linguaphone language course, you start speaking a new language from the first lesson. In as little as three months, after just 30 minutes' study each day, you could be speaking a new language with confidence.

There are no gimmicks, no complicated grammar rules or confusing lists of tenses; simply a proven practical method already used by more than six million people. With Linguaphone, you do not have to commit yourself to the restrictions of an evening class. You can study where and when it suits you, whether at home, commuting to work or in the car. Your "classroom" is wherever you feel most comfortable.

The success of this course is based on the proven Linguaphone method of "listen, understand, speak", which is

similar to the way a child learns to speak. Listening to Linguaphone tapes is a relaxing, involving way to learn and you quickly become familiar with the sounds and rhythms of the new language.

Once you are familiar with the spoken language, you begin to use the handbook. This provides a complete translation of all the words and phrases used.

Linguaphone has more than 60 years experience in the field and has taught millions of people to speak other languages. Your course is there for you to use as often as you like and you can share it with your family and friends, giving them the opportunity to acquire invaluable language skills at no extra cost.

You can listen to your course on any cassette player. But in case you want to study on the move or without disturbing anybody, when you order a full course you will also receive a free personal stereo.

All Linguaphone courses are covered by a full money-back guarantee, so you can try your course for two weeks and make sure it is right for you. If not, return it and you will receive a full refund.

To find out more about Linguaphone's range of language courses and its unique learning method, collect the tokens for the Traveller's Guide offer and send off for your two cassette packs. We will send you your guides plus full details of our £50 discount and free personal

stereo offer. You can also phone their Advice Line free on 0800 282 417.

Today and each day until next Monday, *The Times* is publishing a Linguaphone Traveller's Guide token, making six in all. Collect two tokens and you can apply for one guide at the full price of £2.79 and buy a second for 20p. Collect four and you can apply for two full-price guides and two for 20p each. Collect six and you can buy three full-price guides and a further three for just 20p each.

When you have collected the coupon below and send together with a cheque or postal order for £2.79 plus 20p for two guides, £5.58 plus 40p for four or £8.37 plus 60p for six.

How to book for Le Shuttle

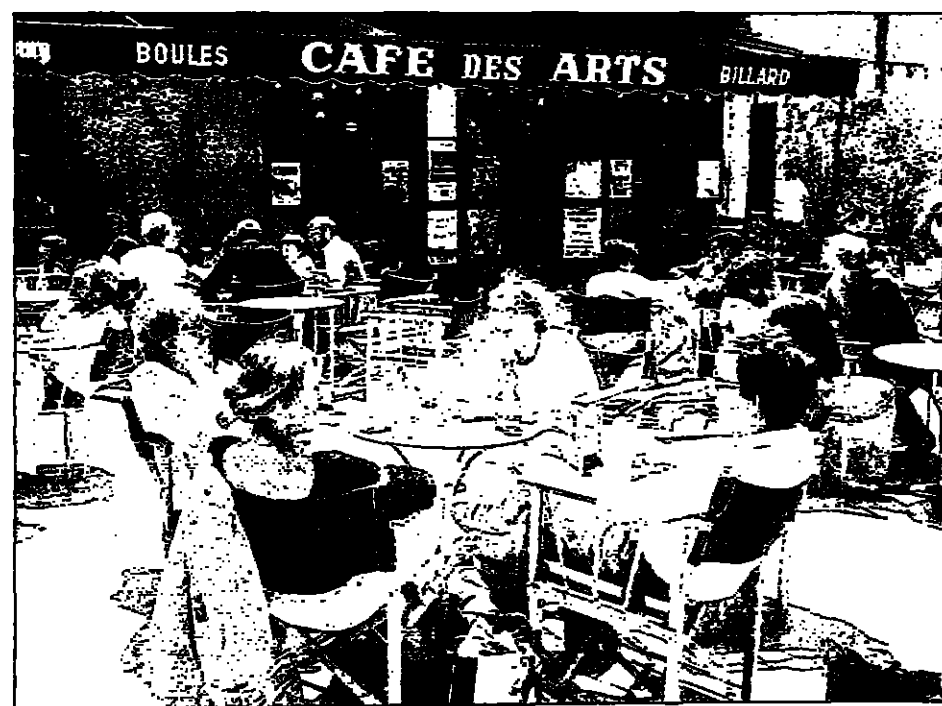
1. Applications must be on the official *Times* booking form (photocopies are acceptable) and sent to *The Times* Try The Tunnel Offer, EuroDrive, The Broadway, 35 Crouch End Hill, London, N8 8DH, to arrive no later than ten days before your date of travel. You must attach four of the six special tokens which will be appearing this week and next Monday.

2. Return tunnel crossing travel must be completed by midnight on April 30, 1995.

3. All bookings are subject to restricted availability and spaces are offered on a first-come-first-served basis. If Le Shuttle cannot provide crossings due to lack of availability or service on the requested dates, we reserve the right to offer alternative dates. Readers allocated a crossing outside their first and second choice dates may cancel their booking without penalty.

4. Tickets for Le Shuttle are sold on an unreserved basis and the service is return-only. Le Shuttle has no facility to book specific crossings.

5. A maximum of 16 people may travel in each car, providing the number travelling does not exceed the manufacturer's recommended capacity. There is no length restriction but maximum height is strictly 1.85 metres, including any roof load. Motorcycles, cycles, caravans, camper vans, trailers, coach-



Café society: Le Shuttle can put you en route to the sunshine

es, commercial vehicles and foot passengers cannot be booked.

6. No responsibility can be taken for lost or damaged applications and proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of receipt.

7. The offer cannot be combined with any other offer, saving or discount scheme and is for return travel only.

8. The duty-free vouchers issued as part of this offer are not transferable or exchangeable for cash, and are valid for redemption at the passenger terminal duty-free shop at Folkestone on the date of travel only.

9. Cancellations, alterations and amendments will be accepted only in writing by recorded post and a charge of £30 per booking will be made. Insurance premiums, where paid as part of this offer, are not refundable.

10. Tickets will be issued subject to Eurotunnel's standard conditions of carriage.

11. Each booking will receive a brochure containing two hotel vouchers along with the travel documents. Brochures cannot be supplied before booking. Each voucher entitles two people to a 50% discount off the normal rack rate on a twin or double room for up to three nights at any one of the featured hotels. Note that the Mercure Altea Hotels featured apply a three-

tier price band: low (white), shoulder (pink) and high (red). The half-price tariff is 50% of the shoulder (pink) price, but availability can include all price bands.

12. All hotel bookings must be made by readers directly with chosen hotels. The maximum forward booking period is usually 14 days. All bookings are subject to availability. The two vouchers can be used together to provide stays in the same hotel of longer than three days where applicable. Certain hotels have a minimum stay of two nights.

13. EuroDrive is a fully bonded member of Abta, number D1175. For further details, call 0181 342 8979.

Language problem? Linguaphone's comprehensive self-teach kit will solve it



A history of bridging the divides

As travelling for both business and pleasure increases, learning a language becomes more important. Many learn a new language using audio tapes and guides like those available on the Linguaphone courses.

Linguaphone has helped more than six million people learn a new language. The company operates in more than 60 countries and there

are now about 500 courses in 30 different languages.

The company was founded in the early 1900s by a Polish immigrant language teacher. It pioneered the use of Edison's sound cylinders, Bell's wax cylinders and the gramophone in teaching languages. In those early days, innovations included the Linguaphone "repeater", which enabled students to

position the arm of their gramophone on a groove to hear words again and again. The "solophone" meant students could listen through earphones without disturbing the rest of the household.

George Bernard Shaw praised the Linguaphone courses. Professor Higgins and Colonel Pickering used some of the techniques very successfully to improve Eliza

Doolittle's pronunciation in Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

Linguaphone now produces language courses for businessmen, students, travellers and children. The Linguaphone Traveller's Survival Guide is an easy way to familiarise yourself with all the essential words and phrases you will need to enjoy your next business trip or holiday abroad.

EuroDrive Application Form

Please complete in block capitals

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel (evening): _____

List all other members of your party:

Title/Initial/Name/Age _____

Car Make & Model: _____

Registration number: _____

I confirm that my vehicle is less than 1.85m high

Please indicate your crossing requirements (max 5 days):

Outward Journey

1st Choice Dates: _____

2nd Choice Dates: _____

Return Journey

1st Choice Dates: _____

2nd Choice Dates: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Try The Tunnel Crossing @ £75: £ _____

£20 Duty Free Voucher @ 20p: £ 0.20

Vehicle Insurance @ £22 per car: £ _____

Adult Insurance @ £8.50 per person: £ _____

Child Insurance @ £4.25 per child: £ _____

TOTAL: £ _____

I wish to pay by cheque/ Access/ Visa/ Switch. Please charge the total amount to my card as follows:

Card No: _____

Name: _____ Issued: _____

Expiry: _____ Please supply cardholder's address if different

Send form and remittance to:

THE TIMES

TOKEN 1

EuroDrive

TRAVELLER'S CLUB

The Times/Le Shuttle offer, EuroDrive, The Broadway, 3-5 Crouch End Hill, London N8 8DH. Tel: 0181 342 8979 Fax: 0181 342 8860

TRAVELLER'S GUIDE ORDER FORM

Complete this form and send it with your remittance to Linguaphone, Department TS95 99, St Giles House, 50 Poland Street, London W1V 4AX

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime phone number _____

I would like to receive Traveller's Guides in the following language(s): Insert quantity in box

French ☐ German ☐ Spanish ☐

Italian ☐ Greek ☐ Portuguese ☐

Include a cheque/ PO payable to Linguaphone Institute

Ltd (£2.79 plus 20p for two guides, £5.58 plus 40p for four guides, £8.37 plus 60p for six guides)

I would also like to purchase the following guides at the normal retail price of £2.79 and include a cheque/ PO payable to Linguaphone Institute Ltd

French ☐ German ☐ Spanish ☐

Italian ☐ Greek ☐ Portuguese ☐

This offer closes on June 30, 1995. Prices include postage and packing.

Please tick if you do not wish Linguaphone to make your details available to other companies who may wish to send you offers of goods or services. ☐

Offer applies to UK and Channel Islands only.

THE TIMES

TOKEN

ONE

LINGUAPHONE



LAW 31-35

Success and struggle in the second city



ARTS 36-38

No West End in sight for Susannah York



SPORT 39-44

Victory in Florida revives Faldo's major ambitions

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MARCH 7 1995

Societies look to Barings

THE Barings debacle may be the building societies' gain. Birmingham & Midshires, the 13th-largest society, is hoping to take advantage of the merchant bank's woes to seize a larger share of the local authorities' deposit market (Anne Ashworth writes).

It is expected that other societies will attempt to increase their local authority business, capitalising on what they see as the sense of unease that now surrounds the merchant banking sector, after Barings' collapse.

If local authorities start to prefer building societies, it would follow a trend set by the societies. Market observers said last week the societies were moving money out of merchant banks into gilts.

The Birmingham Midshires is offering two accounts to local authorities: instant-access and an offshore account, which became available on Saturday offering rates that increase by a fixed amount each year. The Halifax, Woolwich and the Cheltenham & Gloucester are other societies already active in this market.

Pennington, page 25



The men who put the ING in Baring: Aad Jacobs, ING chairman, centre, flanked by fellow executives Godfried van der Lugt, left, and Cees Maas, in London yesterday

French group sets sights on water firm

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE first takeover bid for one of the ten privatised water companies loomed yesterday after an offer was made for Northumbrian by Lyonnaise des Eaux.

But the French concern, which has yet to indicate what price it wishes to pay and which needs regulatory clearance first from British and EC authorities, ran into immediate hostility from MPs, unions, the water industry regulator, and Northumbrian itself.

Mike Taylor, Northumbrian's finance director, said: "We're happy as an independent company delivering on the strategy we have laid out to shareholders — we're not looking for somebody to help us."

The company said the approach was unsolicited and unwelcome. "There is an unacceptable absence of specific terms: it will create business disruption and expose shareholders, customers and employees to a prolonged period of uncertainty," it said.

The French group already owns North East Water, a statutory water company that supplies fresh water across most of Northumberland and in the cities in Tyneside and Wearside. Northumbrian supplies water and sewerage services. Lyonnaise wants to merge the two companies to provide cost savings and lower bills to customers. A combined group would have a customer base of 4.2 million.

The two companies were in tentative bid talks last year, but these failed to make any headway. The French concern says it proposes to make a

cash offer for Northumbrian on terms to be announced "following satisfactory outcome of regulatory review".

The news sent shares in Northumbrian soaring 128p to 870p. At this level, the company is worth just short of £600 million, but some City analysts were suggesting the French would, in due course, have to pay as much as £10 a share to gain control.

This cannot be until this summer at the earliest. The potential merger of two water companies triggers an immediate reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and such an inquiry will take at least three months.

Lyonnaise said it hoped eventually to reach agreement with the Northumbrian board, but would not rule out a hostile bid in due course. Jacques Petry, president of the group's international water division, said: "We have done it this way because of the very strict regulatory framework of the water industry. We wanted to clarify all the regulatory aspects before actually making an offer."

A spokeswoman for Ian Byatt, the water regulator, said a merger "could impact on his ability to carry out his statutory duties, because it would reduce the number of comparators that would enable him to make comparisons about efficiency, etcetera, and to set the relevant price limits". This would have to be balanced, in Mr Byatt's view, by corresponding advantages for consumers, in particular lower prices. Opposition MPs

were linking the French bid with Trafalgar House's unwelcome £1.2 billion onslaught on Northern Electric, also in the North East.

Brian Wilson, Labour's Trade and Industry spokesman, said the offer was "a predictable follow-on" from the Government's refusal to intervene in the Northern bid. "We are now into a period of Tory-sponsored open season on public utilities with the consumers' interests the least of participants' concerns."

Pennington, page 25

Managers' pay awards 'rising'

PAY awards for company managers are running at their highest level for two years, according to figures today that will add to the pressure on top-level corporate pay (Philip Basset writes).

Incomes Data Services says that against the backdrop of continuing economic recovery, pay awards to managers and professional staff in the private sector rose in the three months to January to 3.6 per cent.

This compares with an average level of awards of 2.9 per cent in the same period a year ago.

The survey of settlements for more than 160 managerial groups over the three-month period suggests that much of the recovery in management pay rises has taken place recently. IDS says a quarter of the record rises were of 4 per cent or more, while others were about 5.5 to 6 per cent.

Paying the price, page 27

Sterling sinks to new low against the mark

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN politicians fought an ever more desperate public relations campaign yesterday, defending their plans to move to a single currency, even as sterling, the French franc and the Portuguese escudo sank to new record lows against the German mark.

The dollar sank to an all-time low against the yen for the third consecutive trading day and hovered near to its record low against the mark. Japanese officials talked about convening a special meeting of the Group of Seven and the market was awash with rumours — denied — that the Federal Open Market Committee, which sets US interest rates, was in emergency session.

The air of crisis, which followed the decision of the European Union's monetary committee on Sunday to allow a devaluation of the Spanish peseta and the escudo,

prompted comment from a number of European leaders. Yves-Thibault de Silguy, EU Economic Affairs Commissioner, said that the creation of a single currency had not been affected by recent turmoil in the currency markets. "All preparations [for economic and monetary union] must be completed by the end of 1996."

However, market commentators set little store by such words of reassurance. George Magnus, chief economist at SG Warburg, said: "Official statements since 1992 have always argued that developments have not been justified by the economic fundamentals. But it is quite clear that there are fundamental problems, which investors are right to be concerned about."

Mr Magnus believes the current turmoil is a much more serious crisis than in 1992, when the lira and sterling left the ERM, and in 1993,

when the whole system was forced to abandon narrow bands. Many European countries face a cocktail of political and economic troubles, making it hard to foresee the kind of stability that would qualify them for the single currency.

The devaluation of the peseta by 7 per cent and the escudo by 3.5 per cent now leaves the franc as the next target of the currency markets. The franc, vulnerable to attack because of elections at the end of April and because of the need to cut France's budget deficit when unemployment remains above 12 per cent, fell to a new low of 3.5510 against the mark.

Sterling, which held up well most of the day, suddenly slumped to a new record low in late trading of about DM2.2718, more than three pence down on levels earlier.

EMU doubt, page 9
Market report, page 26



Jockeys Norman Williamson, left, and John Reid with Stalled, the horse yesterday

Danka backs horses in sponsorship deal

By MARTIN BARROW

AND they're off... Sponsors' logos, a fixture on footballers' shirts since 1977 and on cricket shirts since 1986, have finally intruded into the world of horseracing.

Danka, the supplier of photocopyers and facsimile machines, yesterday became the first company to place its logo on racing silks in a £350,000 three-year sponsorship deal with the Lambourn Trainers Association.

Danka's logo will appear on the colours of Lambourn-trained horses, as well as horse boxes, attendants' clothing, blankets and coolers. The sponsorship will cover 30 training yards with about 1,500 horses in training, running more than 3,500

races a year, both flat and national hunt.

Danka will pay a sponsorship fee to each runner, and winners of televised races will receive £500, rising to £1,000 if the race has a value in excess of £10,000. Donations will also be made to racing charities, the Lambourn Welfare Trust and the Injured Jockeys' Fund.

In March 1993, in a memorandum of understanding concluded between the Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding Industry and HM Customs and Excise, owners registered for VAT have to seek income from prize money, appearance money and sponsorship.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FT-SE 100	3001.9	(-23.2)
Yield	4.43%	
FT-SE All share	1485.46	(-7.94)
Nickel	17040.72	(+1.10)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3988.51	(-21.10)*
S&P Composite	462.64	(-2.78)*
US TREASURY		
Federal Funds	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Long Bond	100 3/4%	(100 3/4%)
Yield	7.52%	(7.55%)
LONDON METALS		
3-mth Interbank	6 3/4%	(6 3/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)
future (Mar)	10 1/4%	(10 1/4%)
STERLING		
New York:		
\$	1.6340*	(1.6235)
London:		
\$	1.6321	(1.6205)
DM	2.2625	(2.2272)
FF	8.1000	(8.1950)
Sfr	1.9107	(1.9638)
Yen	151.07	(152.82)
S Index	87.7	(87.5)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.3995*	(1.4235)
FF	4.3528*	(5.0168)
Sfr	1.1688*	(1.2010)
Yen	92.53*	(94.13)
S Index	81.7	(82.4)
Tokyo close Yen	93.47	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	\$16.80	(\$16.75)
GOLD		
London close	\$378.75	(\$377.05)
* denotes midday trading price		

Instant profit for investors in power

By MARTIN WALLER

INVESTORS in the £4 billion sale of the Government's remaining shares in National Power and PowerGen were assured of instant profits when dealings began yesterday.

By the close of trading, the part-paid shares in PowerGen had reached 198 1/2p and their National Power equivalents 186 1/2p. They had been offered at 185p and 170p, respectively, in part-paid form, to the retail investor through the UK Public Offer and at 10p-a-share more to City institutions.

Strong retail demand had required the switching of 10 per cent of the issue to the public offer, from institutions. This virtually guaranteed a big premium in early dealings, as institutions had to go into the market to obtain a full weighting in the shares.

At last night's closing price, retail investors who applied for the minimum package, 80 PowerGen shares and 120 National Power costing £532 in part-paid form, are sitting on a profit of just over £30, minus any dealing costs.

The profit for institutions is less, but still sufficient to brand the issue a success. Potential profits had been even higher during the day, but shrank as the stock market as a whole fell. In early trading, PowerGen shares were well over £2.

Stock Market, page 26

Prices page

Technical problems at our supplier of Wall Street share price statistics have prevented publication of the latest prices in this edition. We apologise.

Dear John,
Thanks to your 4.64% fixed rate mortgage, I am no longer outraged each time Mr Clarke raises interest rates.
Yours worriedly,
A Blair

In the face of rising base rates, John Charcol's 4.64% (4.6% APR) mortgage is clearly in the national interest. Fixed until July 1996, it's available for both purchases and remortgages of up to 70% of the property's value. And we can provide up to 95% loans at a slightly higher rate. To increase its popularity further still, we offer no compulsory insurances and provide the full range of repayment options. For a written quotation, call John Charcol on (0171) 611 7000, or Leeds (0532) 470338. Or drop in and see us at 10-12 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 8DD.

JOHN CHARCOL
TALK ABOUT A BETTER MORTGAGE
0171-611-7000

Typical Example: A £42,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £60,000 repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 15/02/95. 253 gross monthly repayments of £162.39 assuming a fixed rate of 4.64% (APR 4.6%) until 1/7/96 and further assuming the variable base mortgage rate remains at 4.64% after the initial fixed rate has expired for the remainder of the term. In practice the variable base mortgage rate might differ from this assumed. Total amount payable £31,448.27 calculated to include 2.0% arrangement fee, non-refundable reservation fee of £25, £117.50 legal fee, £139 application fee (including valuation) and £50.77 accrued interest. Limited funds available. Loans are subject to the type and value of property. Additional security may be required in the form of a mortgage indemnity guarantee. Written quotations available from John Charcol Ltd. Credit broker fees of up to 1% of the advance may be charged depending on the type of product and credit period. John Charcol Ltd is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. John Charcol is a licensed credit broker. Be sure you can afford the repayments before entering into a credit agreement.

Smith & Nephew plans to expand

By Sarah Bagnall

ACQUISITIONS are on the agenda at Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group. John Robinson, chief executive, said the consolidation in the healthcare industry was likely to throw up opportunities, which, with no debt, the company was well placed to exploit.

"Because of the strength of our balance sheet, we are in a strong position to make acquisitions," he said. The most likely area for expansion is orthopaedic implants, where the group is about the fifth largest in the world. But, Mr Robinson said, to be one of the market leaders one had to survive in the new, harsher trading environment.

Mr Robinson's remarks came as he announced a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits and exceptional items for the year to December 31, to £172.2 million. Exceptional charges of £177.1 million pushed the group into a loss of £5.5 million, compared with a profit of £164.9 million. The exceptional charges reflected a £150 million loss on the sale of Iolux, the lens business, last August, together with a £27 million restructuring charge.

Group turnover rose from £948.7 million to £964.6 million, reflecting a 7 per cent rise in underlying sales from continuing operations. The strongest growth was in Japan, where sales rose 33 per cent, followed by 25 per cent in South East Asia. Mr Robinson said together they accounted for £40 million of sales, but looking forward five years they would be significant markets for the group.

By product, the best performance was achieved by casting and support, which lifted sales 14 per cent. The final dividend, payable on July 4, was lifted to 3.26p, making a total for the year of 5.26p, up from 4.91p. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 10.62p a share, up 5 per cent.

Tempus, page 26



Improving trading conditions for Suter: David Abell, chairman, left, with Alan Hewitt, finance director

Suter enjoys good finish to the year

SUTER, the industrial conglomerate that completed the £234 million takeover of James Wilkes, the specialist engineer, last year, lifted trading profits to £25.3 million in 1994 from £20.5 million in 1993 (Martin Barrow writes).

David Abell, chairman, said that although some markets had remained flat there had been a general improvement in trading conditions across the majority of Suter's businesses. The performance in the latter months of 1994 had been particularly encouraging, he added, and with the UK set for a period of steady growth, conditions in central Europe were now also starting to improve.

Turnover rose to £244.9 million from £186.9 million. Five acquisitions were completed in the year.

There is a final dividend of 6p a share, payable on June 19, making a total of 9.5p, increased from 9.2p. Earnings rose to 13.9p a share from 11.5p, excluding last year's exceptional credit.

Budge urges pit unions to drop disruption threat

By Ross Titeman, Industrial Correspondent

THE head of Britain's biggest coal company yesterday called on mining unions to abandon threats of industrial action and join a drive to rebuild their industry.

In his first public speech since taking over the bulk of British Coal's business last Christmas, Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, called on union leaders to "work with change, rather than fight it".

He decried suggestions that RJB's attempt to introduce three-year contracts for miners amounted to a pay freeze.

"Our offer guarantees that terms and benefits will not be reduced," he said. Productivity could still be rewarded.

"Now isn't the time for union threats of industrial action," he told the Coal Industry Society, in London. Such action "would be extremely detrimental to securing markets and send the wrong message to all of our customers at a most critical time".

Officials of the National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers have expressed opposition to three-year contracts.

However, Mr Budge insisted:

"We are asking union leaders to be realistic, to work with change, rather than fight it, and to assist their members and RJB to develop the business profitably."

RJB had already "probably reduced overall costs by 3 per cent" since taking over British Coal's operations in England for £815 million in December. "Although British Coal has substantially reduced costs over recent years, there is still room for further improvement," Mr Budge said.

Discussions with material suppliers and equipment

manufacturers about cost reductions were under way. "They realise that without the co-operation of everyone, costs may not be competitive and the industry will continue to decline," he said.

Since the break-up of British Coal and the separate sales of the Scottish and Welsh mining operations, RJB Mining has become Britain's biggest coal mining group, with 21 deep mines in production and many more open-cast sites.

With British Coal's assets added to existing operations, RJB Mining has annual output of 38 million tonnes. Four-fifths of production comes from deep mines, the rest from open-cast. Mr Budge said that he hoped to maintain that ratio. "We will not be expanding our open-cast operations at the expense of our deep mine production," he said.

However, RJB has begun discussions with local councils and other interested parties in order that open-cast sites can be replaced when exhausted. Access to open-cast was essential to maintain the mix of supplies sought by customers, Mr Budge said.

Lucas £1bn deal to supply VW

By Ross Titeman, Industrial Correspondent

EFFORTS by George Simpson, the former Rover cars chief, to revitalise Lucas Industries showed first fruits of success yesterday when the car parts group detailed a £1 billion contract to supply Volkswagen.

Three hundred new jobs will be created at Stonehouse, Gloucestershire and Birmingham as facilities are expanded to supply electronic injection units for diesel engines built by the German car group.

The selection of the Lucas electronic injection system by a carmaker marks a breakthrough for the Birmingham car, aerospace and automotive parts group. Although lorry-makers began to buy the system eight years ago, Lucas has hitherto been unable to persuade car manufacturers to adopt the system, although it improves fuel economy and cuts emissions of particulates, the fine particles which have been linked to rising respiratory ailments.

Mr Simpson said: "We fully expect other companies to follow this lead." The contract showed Lucas could convert its research spending into product sales, he said.

ASW benefits from steel industry upturn

ASW HOLDINGS, the British construction steelmaker about to take over part of Usinor-Sacilor, the French steel group, expects the upturn in the industry to continue this year, after giving a big boost to profits in 1994. Pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 surged to £4.2 million, from £100,000. The net profit rose to £5.7 million, from £900,000, on turnover of £464.3 million (£428.5 million). Earnings per share rose to 6.4p, from a loss of 0.7p. As announced last year, the dividend will be held at 3p.

Mr Edward Townsend, finance director, said ASW expected final approval from the French government soon of his company's acquisition from Usinor-Sacilor of 80 per cent of Société des Aciers d'Armature pour le Béton. Approval has already been given by the French privatisation committee. The acquisition, which will give Usinor-Sacilor a 12 per cent stake in ASW, would make ASW a pan-European steel company and up its turnover to about £640 million.

Saatchi appointment

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, the beleaguered advertising group has appointed a human resources chief because "people are our most important asset". The group, thrown into turmoil when its ousting of Maurice Saatchi as chairman sparked a wave of staff resignations and prompted some key client defections, said Al Prendergast would become executive vice-president of human resources worldwide. Charles Scott, the chief executive, said: "I fully expect the knowledge and experience which Al brings to the group will help to enhance the future performance of all our business units."

Volvo buys Dutch stake

VOLVO, the Swedish carmaker, has agreed to pay Clark Equipment of America, \$573 million for its 50 per cent stake in VME, the Dutch-registered company created when the two groups merged their construction equipment businesses in 1985. Clark said in January that it intended to sell its holding in VME, which makes excavators, wheel-loaders and rigid trucks, through a public share offering. Volvo said that VME will now become a fully-owned subsidiary and be renamed Volvo Construction Equipment, and that the deal fitted Volvo's policy of concentrating on the automotive industry.

Dasa in joint jet study

DASA, the German aerospace group, and Samsung Aerospace of South Korea have agreed to study the feasibility of building a regional transport jet with 100-120 seats. The aircraft could be built for service in the next century if market research and development studies were conclusively favourable. Dasa said. The agreement was also initiated by Fokker, Dasa's Dutch subsidiary. Dasa initiated a similar memorandum with the Chinese aero industry in December, and the latest agreement completes the partnership arrangements.

Burnfield bounces back

BURNFIELD, the industrial control group, saw profits recover to £3.1 million before tax in the year to December 31, from a depressed £776,000 in 1993, and said it had entered the current year with improved order books and a strong balance sheet. The company is lifting the final dividend to 1.75p a share, payable on May 4, making a total of 2.75p, increased from 2.5p. Earnings recovered to 6.3p a share, from 1.4p. Turnover edged forward to £39.56 million, from £38.5 million, but operating profits recovered strongly to £3.2 million, from £1 million.

Salvesen's £64m sale

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN, the food distribution and specialist hire company, has sold its brick operations for £63.5 million to their management, backed by CINven, the venture capitalists. The operations consist of Salvesen Brick, WH Collier and associated assets. A total of £61 million is payable in cash, with the balance coming from an unsecured convertible loan stock note with par value of £25 million, redeemable upon the sale or flotation of the business. Sale proceeds will be used to reduce group borrowings, which were £132.3 million at the end of the year to March 31, 1994.

Inveresk hit by price rise

RISEING woodpulp prices cut pre-tax profits of Inveresk, the paper maker, by 12 per cent, to £8.1 million, in the year to December 31. Bill Goodall, right, the chairman, said woodpulp prices had risen by about 80 per cent. Turnover rose 12 per cent, to £101.2 million. Exports, up 12 per cent, are now 51 per cent of turnover. The final dividend rises from 3.5p to 3.65p, making 5.52p. Earnings per share are 10.9p, down from 16.9p after an increase in shares upon flotation.



Mackie beats forecast

MACKIE International Group, the Belfast precision engineering company, comfortably beat its own flotation profit forecast of £1.9 million with actual profits of £2.04 million for the year to December 31, which excluded exceptional income relating to debt forgiveness. Earnings were 37.4p a share, against a forecast 24.4p. Turnover rose to £19.5 million from £13.2 million. The company reported net assets of £17 million at the year-end. In 1993, Mackie incurred pre-tax losses of £2.62 million, with losses per share of 70.9p. On the stock market, the shares, floated at 180p last September, rose 3p to 243p.

Close lifts payout

CLOSE BROTHERS, the merchant bank and investment management group, lifted its interim dividend by 16 per cent to 2.9p, from 2.5p, in spite of almost unchanged pre-tax profits of £16.4 million in the half year to January 31. Earnings per share were 11.2p, up from 11.1p previously. Operating income fell to £35.8 million (£41.6 million). Net interest income rose to £19.95 million (£16.7 million), but fee and commission income fell to £8.6 million (£16.2 million). Administrative costs were cut to £17.3 million (£21.6 million). The loan book rose by 23 per cent, to £429 million. The shares gained 4p, to 235p.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

ACCELERATION INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual general meeting of the above company will be held at the offices of the company, 10 Farnham Street, London EC2A 4BN, on Thursday, 13th March 1995, at 10.30 am. The business to be transacted at the meeting is as follows: (1) to approve a dividend of 10.62p per share; (2) to approve a dividend of 3.26p per share; (3) to approve a dividend of 5.26p per share; (4) to approve a dividend of 4.91p per share; (5) to approve a dividend of 10.62p per share; (6) to approve a dividend of 3.26p per share; (7) to approve a dividend of 5.26p per share; (8) to approve a dividend of 4.91p per share; (9) to approve a dividend of 10.62p per share; (10) to approve a dividend of 3.26p per share; (11) to approve a dividend of 5.26p per share; (12) to approve a dividend of 4.91p per share; (13) to approve a dividend of 10.62p per share; (14) to approve a dividend of 3.26p per share; (15) to approve a dividend of 5.26p per share; (16) to approve a dividend of 4.91p per share; (17) to approve a dividend of 10.62p per share; (18) to approve a dividend of 3.26p per share; (19) to approve a dividend of 5.26p per share; (20) to approve a dividend of 4.91p per share; (21) to approve a dividend of 10.62p per share; 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□ No barriers to a French takeover □ Time to ponder the sins of wages □ Bearing little for bondholders

Lyonnaise tests the water

□ OH! to have been a fly on the wall at Northumbrian Water's Gosforth headquarters when Lyonnaise des Eaux first heaved into view. Northumbrian, by all accounts, thought that the French wanted to discuss the sale of their North East Water business, a plan that would have suited Northumbrian's own expansion plans down to the ground.

The two had already been in collaboration within their home markets, which intersect and overlap all over the North-East. Where North East itself provides water, the same household gets its sewerage services from Northumbrian. Water from the mighty Kielder reservoir, indeed, operated by Northumbrian, feeds into the Tyne, the Wear, whence North East draws its supplies.

What could be more natural, and more cost-effective, than putting the two together into one body? This, of course, is just what the French had in mind. Only slowly must it have dawned on the Northumbrian board — and it is not entirely fair to blame difficulties in translation — that their approach was somewhat different. They did not want to sell North East — they wanted a controlling stake in Northumbrian.

The negotiations, it is fair to assume, broke down fairly

swiftly at this stage. The French were considering their position just as, in another sector of the privatised utilities, Trafalgar House was cutting the regulatory Gordian knot and bidding outright for Northern Electric.

The widespread perception was that Trafalgar would be bounced forthwith into the Monopolies Commission by a government keen to avoid a political row over regional asset-stripping by an overseas company. They were not, which will have been quite an encouragement to a French business keen to buy further into the British water industry.

The timetable henceforth is a depressing one for everyone save those drawing fees from either camp. The Department of Trade and Industry must resolve with Brussels who gets jurisdiction, which could take a month. Assuming it goes to London, the DTI draws up terms of reference for another week and the MMC looks at it for three months. Give the relevant Secretary of State another month to mull over it, and we are well into August before Lyonnaise can make a formal bid at a given price. Then, and only

when there is a price on the table, Brussels has its chance to look at it. That price is therefore almost impossible to assess this early on. At the current level Northumbrian, the smallest of the ten privatised companies in England and Wales and the perennial bid favourite, is worth more than three and a half times the value at which it was sold in 1989. The reckoning must be, post-Trafalgar, that the French will pass the regulatory hurdle and bid. Certainly, if Trafalgar House is deemed a suitable owner of a near-monopoly utility, Lyonnaise would seem to raise few difficulties.

Where it pays to listen and change

□ CEDRIC BROWN, the chief executive of British Gas, is once again up before the bench at the Commons Employment Select Committee today over his pay package. Business is in the dock again. Or is it?

Industry has so far not made much of a fist in defending itself in the row over executive pay.



Partly, that's because many of its key figures are not very good at coming up with answers in public away from the yes-man atmosphere of many UK boardrooms, where the chief executive's word is often unchallengeable law, industry leaders are very inexperienced at being questioned closely on sensitive or indeed any issues.

But for its own sake, business and its shareholders need to face up to the damage to industry and services that the row over executive pay is doing.

The public impression that all bosses are now somehow cheating over pay is strong. Such a view is deeply frustrating for many people trying to run companies in Britain, and still feeling

the strong undertow of recession. Small manufacturers are goggling at Cedric Brown's 75 per cent pay rise, bonus and share options as much as anyone else. But they know that they and industry generally are being tainted by the actions of a tiny number of companies.

The pay row is about the remuneration of the leaders of the privatised utility companies in gas, water, electricity and telecommunications — not of industry in general. Yet most industry leaders seem reluctant to support the justified criticism of utility executives' pay, even though their own and their business's standing is being damaged by the image of greed and salary-rigging. There are problems about executive pay that run wider than the privatised utilities. The merry roundabout of remuneration committees prompts a strong and often correct impression of extensive and lucrative backscratching.

Such issues should be dealt with by the CBI's Greenbury committee. If Greenbury comes up with satisfactory results, busi-

ness should embrace its proposed reforms. But Greenbury is unlikely to come up with solutions to actual pay levels and rises for utility directors, the issue causing most offence. The spectacle of utility leaders blustering away in the employment committee hearings has not been an edifying one. Arrogance has been the common and unpleasant factor.

Greenbury will not and cannot provide all the solutions, though it would be valuable if it recommended a new role for shareholders in setting directors' pay — the exercising of which would be to the benefit of the utilities and business in general.

Going Dutch at Barings

□ THOSE investing in Barings' £100 million perpetual subordinated debt issue in January last year knew that they were taking higher than average risk for higher than average returns.

When the bank went bust at the end of last month, it was obvious that they were going to

be the biggest losers. Depositors were always going to get some dividend from the administration, no matter how the securities, banking and asset management businesses of Barings were parcelled up and sold off. Aard Jacobs, chairman of ING, which yesterday bought the bank from the administrators, wasted no sympathy on bondholders.

Their objections to the administrators' request to the High Court yesterday for approval for the sale of most of Barings to ING were partly because they did not understand the structure of the deal being offered to them.

ING will pay £5 million to the administrators of Barings plc, for distribution to the bondholders. For its £5 million, ING is effectively buying the £100 million note capital. The £95 million is the value of an indemnity pot that will be used by ING to meet any liabilities arising from its acquisition of Barings.

If, after six years, under the statute of limitations, there is anything left, ING will make a further payment of 20 per cent of the value of the notes to bondholders. This would make 25 per cent. Scottish Amicable, with a £33 million investment in the notes, and Legal & General, with another, are not happy. But in the words of Mr Jacobs, they were "treated too well" last year and knew what they were taking on.

Redrow builds up to £16m

By MARTIN WALLER

AN 11 per cent rise in the average price of houses sold helped to push pre-tax profits at Redrow Group, the housebuilder that came to the market last year, up 72 per cent to £16.3 million in the half year to December 31.

This figure included a £1.6 million improvement on the interest payment line as a result of the flotation and the non-repetition of a loss on the sale of discontinued operations. Continuing profits, therefore, rose 27 per cent to £15.6 million.

Redrow is paying a maiden interim dividend of 1.05p, out of earnings of 5.2p on a continuing basis. Steve Morgan, the chairman, said the housing market remained fragile, although he believed many of the gloomy reports circulating were unfair comparisons with a mini-boom, ultimately unsustainable, that was experienced last spring.

Redrow has decided, in the light of the "extremely tight" margins in the contracting industry, to shut its construction offshoot.

Tempus, page 26

Hillsdown to sell Maple Leaf Foods stake

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the food group, is planning to sell its 56 per cent stake in Maple Leaf Foods for up to £680 million (£299 million) in cash.

Wallace McCain, one of the two founding brothers of the McCain frozen foods empire, has joined forces with the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board to buy Maple Leaf and merge it into a new food group.

Under the terms of the offer, Hillsdown would receive a minimum of £623 million in cash together with a 10 per cent shareholding in the newly enlarged company. It could get up to £680 million in cash if most of the other Maple Leaf shareholders opt to take shares in the new company.

Sir John Nott, the chairman of Hillsdown, said that the deal would enable the group to concentrate its resources on its core European operations. He added: "The

European food industry is changing rapidly and it has presented a lot of new opportunities. We are now in a better position to take advantage of those opportunities."

The deal would reduce gearing from about 40 per cent to less than 10 per cent. "Before this, we would not have looked at a deal much above £100 million," Sir John said. "Now we can look at deals of £500 million." However, he added that the group would not rush into any acquisition.

The news was broadly welcomed in the City. One analyst said: "They have done the right thing, but the price is a bit on the lean side."

The offer is worth up to £515 a share, an 18 per cent premium to Maple Leaf's closing price of £512.75 on Friday night.

Sir John has not ruled out the possibility of another buyer entering the frame with a higher bid. The non-executive directors of Maple Leaf have set up a special committee to seek out other interested parties.

Mr McCain was ousted as co-chief executive of McCain Foods last October after a bitter dispute with Harrison McCain, his brother, over succession planning.

Sir John made his approach shortly afterwards with a view to buying his 33 per cent shareholding in McCain. Instead, talks between the two sides led to yesterday's announcement.

Hillsdown first entered the Canadian food market in 1987 with the acquisition of Maple Leaf Mills. The business was merged with Canada Packers three years later and renamed Hillsdown was left with a 45 per cent stake and then bought a further 11 per cent of the shares.

Tempus, page 26

BBA Group returns to the black

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE recovery of BBA Group gathered pace yesterday as the engineering and motor components returned to the black and beat its dividend forecast.

The group made pre-tax profits of £63.9 million in the year to December 31, compared with a loss of £14.5 million. Bob Quarta, recruited from BTR as chief executive 18 months ago, said the improvement was driven by the elimination of underperforming businesses, higher productivity and cost reductions.

The final dividend is lifted to 3.25p (5.25p), making a total payout of 4.75p (7.50p). Shareholders will be paid on May 26. The total dividend is slightly above the group's forecast of 4.50p. Mr Quarta said the decision to raise it was due to faster than expected progress on profitability.

The group's disposal programme, which has raised about £130 million to date, continues with a further £200 million of disposals expected. Mr Quarta refused to comment on reports that BBA was on the verge of selling AP, its motor components subsidiary.

Mr Quarta said the group was looking to make acquisitions. He said the group could finance any deals without tapping shareholders for funds.

Tempus, page 26

BPI expands recycling as raw materials soar

By SARAH BAGNALL

BRITISH POLYTHENE INDUSTRIES (BPI) plans to expand its recycling activities in the face of rising raw material prices.

Cameron McLatchie, chairman and chief executive, said: "At last recycled products are cheaper." This is because raw materials have leapt 75 per cent over the last year and scrap is a cheaper alternative.

The company, Europe's largest polythene film producer, makes a range of plastic bags, shrink films, wraps and coatings for industries such as food, agriculture and chemicals. Recycling accounts for about one-fifth of the tonnage sold and is used in about two-fifths of the group's products.

Mr McLatchie said the crossover in cost efficiencies between new raw materials and scrap was in the process of happening and was not

expected to be reversed. "We think the time is right to invest in further equipment for recycling of post-use scrap. We plan to invest about £4 million this year, of which £2 million is for a new washing plant," he said.

Elsewhere, BPI plans to make further bolt-on acquisitions this year, after the seven last year.

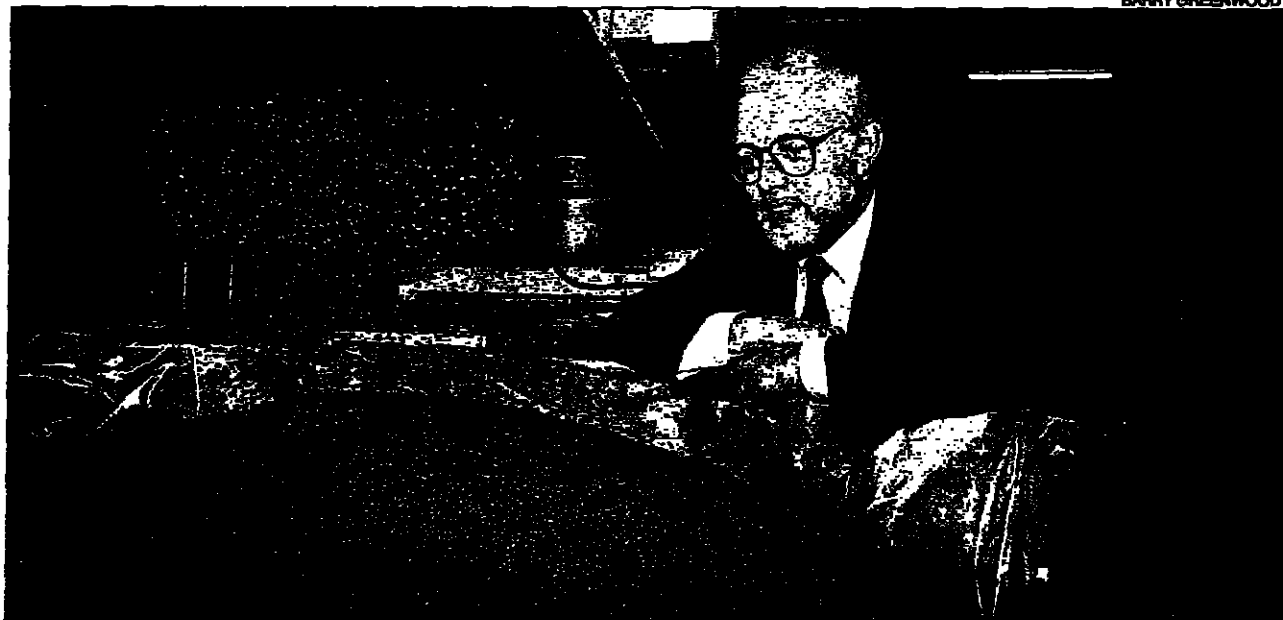
His remarks came as BPI announced a 25 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £19.2 million in the year to December 31. This was achieved in spite of the rise in raw material prices because the group managed to pass them on to customers. Turnover rose 27 per cent to £269 million. The final dividend, payable on May 26, rises from 7.75p to 9.25p, making 13.75p (11.5p). Earnings per share rose 30 per cent to 33p.

British Vita tops forecasts

BRITISH VITA, the polymers and fibres group, beat City expectations to report a 47 per cent rise in profits (Susan Gilchrist writes). Pre-tax profits jumped to £49.5 million in the year to December 31, from £33.7 million previously, exceeding analysts' £45 million forecasts.

Rod Sellers, chief executive, said that the improvement was in spite of rapidly rising raw material costs. Operating margins in continuing businesses rose to 5.9 per cent, from 5.1 per cent.

The group wants to expand in the US and the Far East, where it is under-represented. A final dividend of 3.95p (3.75p) makes 7.7p (7.4p).



Rod Sellers yesterday, when British Vita announced a 47 per cent rise in profits in spite of rapidly rising raw material costs

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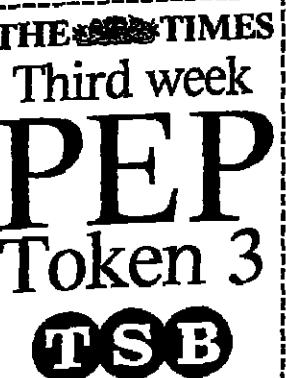
- The TSB UK Income Fund aims to provide a high-income return with the potential for some capital growth over the longer term, from investments in Britain.
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* Sources: Microprint offer-to-offer. Income not guaranteed. (As at 18.2.95)



STOCK MARKETS

MICHAEL CLARK

Pressure on the dollar reflects badly on shares

INVESTORS were again on the ropes after the dollar came under renewed pressure in world currency markets. The equity market managed to hold above the 3,000 level but it was a close run thing.

Hopes that the equity market could start making headway following the overnight rescue of Barings by ING, the Dutch merchant bank, were quickly dashed as investor attention was focused on currency movements. Renewed weakness by the pound against the mark and the dollar's slump to a new low against the yen again raised the spectre of another rise in interest rates.

As a result, the FT-SE 100 index opened the session nursing a fall of more than 30 points. The ability of the Dow Jones industrial average to move more than half its earlier losses, enabled the index to close above its worst with a fall of 22.2 at 3,001.9.

Turnover was just short of 700 million shares but was artificially swollen by dealings in partly paid shares of the two power generators and speculative support for the water utilities.

Northumbrian Water soared 12p to 86p on learning that Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French water company, intends to make a formal bid for the company. Northumbrian described the statement as unwelcome and said it will disrupt business and prompt prolonged uncertainty.

The group also warned shareholders that there was an unacceptable absence of specific terms and that the French were under no obligation to make a bid. The French group, for its part, expected any offer to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for clarification.

Brokers said they expected the French to make an opening offer of at least 800p after the company's already owned North East Water and would be expected to make extensive cost savings. A current levels of the group has a market value of £600 million.

In spite of the approach, speculative support proved selective. **Southern** rose 16p to 567p, **Welsh** 28p to 637p, **North Trent** 4p to 535p, **Severn Trent** 2p to 529p, **Thames** 2p to 486p and **Yorkshire** 9p to 528p.

Private investors are calculated to have made a profit of



George Simpson, of Lucas, saw the firm's shares jump

£30 each from first time trading in the partly paid shares of the power generating twins

National Power and **PowerGen**. They were allowed to subscribe for a minimum of £32 worth of shares in the partly paid form after the sale of the Government's remaining 40 per cent stake in the two companies.

National Power, the bigger

food to furniture group, is to sell its 56 per cent interest in **Maple Leaf Foods**. Brokers say proceeds from such a disposal could raise about £300 million. **Hilldown** has been offered £274 million for the business by the **Wallace McCain** family and the **Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan**. **Hilldown** will also enjoy a 10 per cent stake in the new

black last year with pre-tax profits of £84.3 million against a previous loss of £11.5 million. **Lucas Industries** managed to shrug off recent weakness with a jump of 6p to 187p. The group has just signed a £1 billion deal to supply Volkswagen with fuel injection systems. The contract will create up to 300 jobs during the next three years at its plants in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, and Birmingham.

Only last month the **Lucas** share price fell from 182p to about 166p after the US Navy announced it planned to sue the company after it was found guilty of falsifying inspection checks on spare parts.

A 28 per cent surge in full year pre-tax profits to £32 million at specialist publisher **Metals** lifted the shares 3p to 56p. The group, in which EMAP continues to hold a 20 per cent stake, now boasts £8 million in the bank. **Trevor Tarring**, chairman, is confident of further strong growth and is on the lookout for suitable acquisitions.

Smith & Nephew slipped 2p to 159p after hinting that the group may be on the verge of making a number of acquisitions. The news came as the group announced it had plunged into the red last year with pre-tax losses of £5.5 million against a profit of £16.9 million last time. The figure was struck after losses of £150 million at its **loptex** division and restructuring costs totalling £27 million.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts enjoyed an early mark-up as investors responded to weakness in the dollar and devaluation of the peseta and escudo. However, it proved short-lived, and prices were drifting again along with other European bond markets.

In the futures pit, the **June** series of the long gilt finished £11½ lower at £101½½ in thin trading which saw 42,500 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues **Treasury 8 per cent 2013** lost £1½½ at 89½½, while at the shorter end **Treasury 8 per cent 2000** was five ticks off at 87½½.

WALL STREET: Shares on the New York Stock Exchange were sliding at midday, under pressure from a weak dollar. Dow utilities were in retreat as a result of higher interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 21.10 points at 3,968.51.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3968.51 (-21.10)
S&P Composite 482.64 (-2.78)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17040.72 (+1.10)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8093.91 (-91.24)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 402.12 (-3.48)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 1891.6 (-10.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2070.32 (-39.17)

Singapore:
Straits 2126.99 (-6.01)

Brussels:
General 6842.75 (-107.58)

Paris:
CAC-40 1773.25 (-31.99)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 608.30 (-10.30)

London:
FT 30 2287.4 (-14.3)
FT 100 3001.9 (-21.3)
FTSE Mid 250 3094.7 (+3.3)
FTSE Europe 100 1281.18 (-21.38)
FT A All-Share 1485.46 (-7.94)
FT Non Financials 1608.43 (-7.21)
FT Global 109.68 (-0.25)
FT Govt 91.04 (-0.07)
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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Smoke-free results?

SIR Patrick Sheehy will be able to put one hand on his heart tomorrow when presenting BAT's year-end results and admit that, yes, he has undergone a period of training in the weird and wonderful world of derivatives. And that his teachers came from BAT's in-house financial team. He felt he should further educate himself. However, Sir Patrick, still with the same hand on heart, will be able to say that the exercise had nothing to do with BAT, but rather with his being on BP's board and audit committee. With his other hand, Sir Patrick can be expected tomorrow to reach for the ashtray. He is, after all, chairman of a multinational tobacco group, and he enjoys smoking. As far as he and his ashtray are concerned, it is somewhat unfortunate that National No Smoking day tomorrow just happens to coincide with the day BAT long ago decided to announce its year-end results.

Banking blades

ING Bank may well have beaten ABN Amro in the race for Barings Brothers, but, in the same weekend, it lost to Amro in the annual Business Houses Rowing Club Eight race, organised by Cygnet RC, the Civil Service rowing club, and held on the River Thames between Putney Pier and Barnes Bridge. The race regularly attracts crews from Dutch and British banks, and on Saturday, Nat West Bank II came first. ABN Amro was sixth and ING Bank was thirteenth.

Going Dutch

THERE is a northern expression "clogs to clogs in three generations", which is a polite way of saying that grandsons of self-made businessmen usually ruin the family business in three generations. The Barings family can trace its roots back to Holland, which makes it ironic that Internationale Nederlanden Groep (ING) has come to the merchant bank's rescue. Or, as the saying might go, "clogs to clogs in unpeeped generations".



Bonus question

WHATEVER the outcome of today's tête-à-tête between Greville Janner and Cedric Brown, the idea that British Gas's chief executive hid matters from his inquisitor, last time round, would appear a bit rich. On *The World Tonight* last month, Janner was asked why he wanted to recall Cedric Brown. Q: "He's already spoken to you once. What do you want him to tell you that he hasn't already told you?" Janner: "We got a letter today from Richard Giordano, the chairman, in which he sets out details of a bonus scheme which we didn't know about." Q: "And you only heard about that today?" A: "Yes, and it's the unanimous view of our committee that he ought to come back and tell us about this and explain to us what the bonus scheme is and also tell us why he didn't make full disclosure." ... Strange, because British Gas's memorandum to the Employment Select Committee appeared to answer the question as long ago as January 17.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Sir Desmond Pitcher, left, of North West Water, Yve Newbold, of Hanson, and Sir Richard Greenbury, who is to chair the inquiry on top pay

Company executives pay the price of public anger

Philip Bassett looks at the mounting concern in the UK about the levels of top pay, particularly in the utilities

Greville Janner, the Labour MP who chairs the Commons' Employment Committee before which Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas, will once again appear today to defend his pay package, is clear on the issue of top pay in the privatised utilities. "There is public anger at the greed," he says. "But it's not just Labour. There is a real feeling of discomfort about it — on all sides."

Mr Brown's enforced return to the Commons committee corridor marks a new highpoint in the row that will not go away — over the pay levels and increases of top company executives, especially those in the privatised utilities of gas, electricity, water and telecoms.

"Public outrage", as Mr Janner describes it, reached such a peak last week that after months of insisting that the law had no place in regulating pay, especially boardroom pay, John Major was forced into a humiliating retreat, acknowledging how "distasteful" some executives' pay rises were, and promising legislation if necessary.

Mr Brown is central to the affair. Since news broke last November of his 75 per cent pay rise, the issue of his pay and that of other utility bosses has refused to disappear. His recall to the all-party committee today stems from press disclosures that in addition to his pay rise, a new bonus system could see his salary double to almost £1 million.

While it may seem puzzling that a senior figure in a private company has to appear again before MPs — he was last before the committee at the end of January — Mr Brown, who is now paid £475,000, has little choice. Under Commons' standing orders, the select committee has the power to "send for persons, papers and records". If summoned witnesses do not attend, the committee can invoke its formal powers to require them to do so. If that fails, the Commons would be asked to uphold the order. If a witness still disobeys, then the House has the power to put them in prison.

Such a clash is rare, although the temperature over utility executives' pay is such that the committee is in the foothills of such a row with Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman of North West Water, salary £338,000, a 571 per cent pay rise since privatisation — who refused to disclose details of the company's £60,000 charitable donations. Buoyed by the Prime Minister's U-turn, and angered by failing to get the full picture when Mr Brown first appeared, MPs on the committee will try today to push the British Gas chief hard, especially since the committee believes it has been making the running on the issue of utility pay (a distinction many newspapers and the Labour Party front-bench claims too).

Whoever has been leading, it is clear that defensiveness has led ministers and business leaders to make mistakes — of which the remark by Sir Iain Vallance, of British Telecom, that he might like to swap jobs with a junior hospital doctor since their work would be more relaxing

than his has been the most pronounced and damaging. Everyone involved now has on their lips a one-word salvation: Greenbury. Sir Richard Greenbury, the 5699,000 chairman of Marks & Spencer, is now heading a high-level committee on top pay established, somewhat reluctantly, by the CBI at the request of the Prime Minister. Its findings are now seen as the key to the outcome of the top pay row. Indeed, Mr Major's legislative pledge was wholly conditional on any recommendations from the Greenbury committee requiring legislative back-up.

For some, Greenbury is little more than a whitewash, stuffed with business insiders. Others see it as a panic as Sir Desmond puts it, a "political response to a political problem". But it is likely to be the mechanism for a solution. What is happening on the committee? And what is likely to conclude? After it was set up on

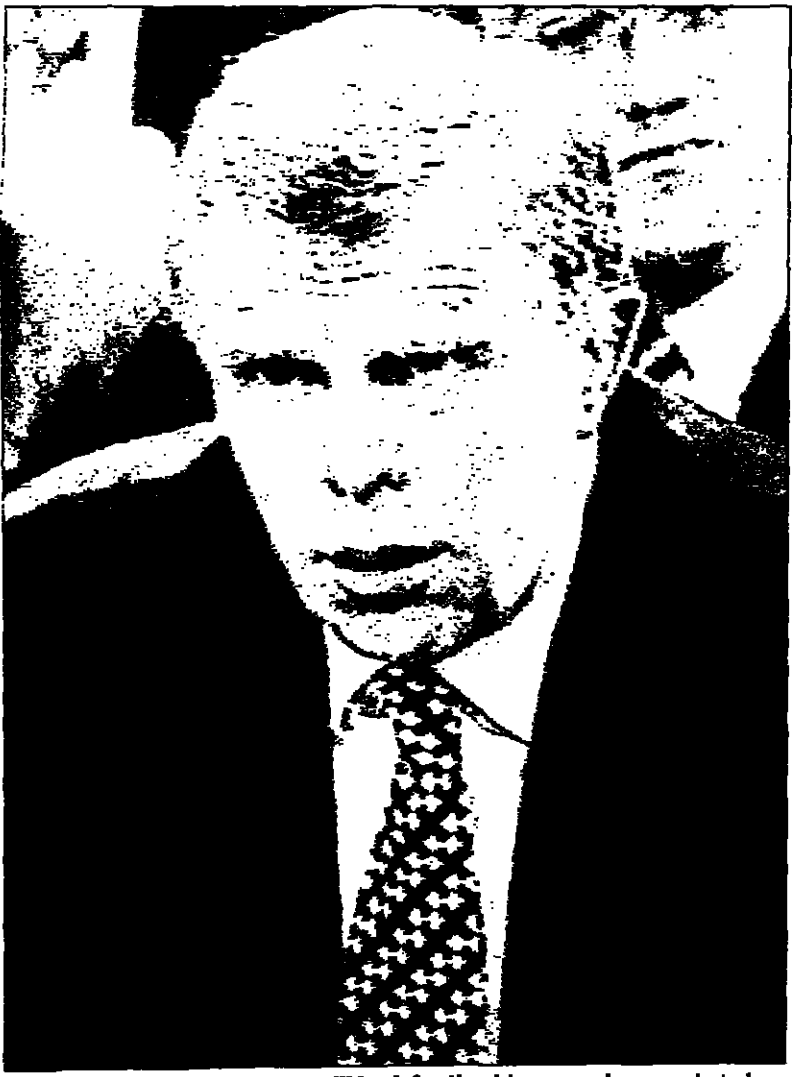
January 16, Sir Richard issued an edict of silence, to which most of its members have adhered and are likely to do so until its report is revealed, probably in July.

So far, the 11-strong committee has met fully twice, though it has established several sub-groups to look at particular issues. Mountains of written evidence are streaming in to its secretariat, provided free of charge by KPMG, the accountant. A questionnaire is being sent out to sample opinion. Private meetings with people to obtain oral evidence are being arranged. Its main areas of work are starting to emerge: the make-up, independence and effectiveness of the remuneration committees that set executive directors' pay; pay practices, such as share options, bonus, contract terms and lengths and payoffs for failure; the extent of the disclosure of directors' pay, including its timing and mechanism by which pay and other benefits are set; and how best to tell people, including shareholders, about salary levels and increases.

So far, the committee appears completely open in a number of key areas, including, in particular, what greater role — indeed, what genuinely operational role — shareholders should have in either setting or approving salary packages and the question of share options that are unrelated to directors' own performances, or indeed a company's performance, so that share options can still be realised for a profit even if a company has in fact under-performed its stock market sector.

But Greenbury is likely to come up with a code of practice, which may well need changes to company law. The real signal taken by committee members from the Prime Minister's statement is that they now know they need not shy away from proposals which they know would need legislative change.

Will all that, or something like it, be sufficient? It depends on what the political temperature on the issue of executive and especially utility pay is at the time it reports — though based on the past five months, few company leaders are sanguine that the issue will have disappeared by then.



Cedric Brown, of British Gas, will be defending his pay package again today

Clearly, its likely emphasis on transparency and openness will be important, and helpful to business and the Government. But as Yve Newbold, Hanson company secretary, acknowledges, more will be needed. The problem is in the presentation, but only partly — the core of the problem lies in the public outrage not at not being told enough, but at utility leaders' pay levels and rises simply being far too high.

Many MPs and some business leaders believe that the public is genuinely outraged at the pay levels and increases for utility bosses who have done little but ride the inevitable success of their companies in monopoly markets and have seen ever larger slices of big profits creamed off into their own salary packages.

They believe that public concern has been stoked by such rises coming after many years of enforced general pay restraint during the recession, and compare them with rises of 1 per cent being given nationally to nurses this year, for instance. Union leaders are seizing on this feeling in formulating pay claims, and the TUC will emphasise it today when it launches a campaign on poverty pay among part-time workers.

From the Prime Minister onwards, government politicians and business leaders hope the Greenbury committee can solve the problem. They will hope that Greenbury can come up with some ideas — and some sensitivities — that the privatised utilities have signally failed to show over the issue of their executives' pay. Otherwise, Mr Brown is unlikely to be the only utility boss making a return trip to the Commons.

Unravelling the centre, we are told, unleashes local managers' energies. It gives rein to initiative and frees them from the stifling burden of head-office bureaucracy. And so it does. But autonomy from head office only goes as far as the bottom line, often only the top line of the weekly, monthly or quarterly financial figures that managers of subsidiaries or departments must submit to the spiders at the centre of the web.

The pressure to meet the bottom line is intense. It can leave managers isolated and stressed, tax them beyond their abilities, tempt them to cut corners. You are on your own. If things go wrong, head office is not to blame. Forget Barings. That was only money. Remember the Herald of Free Enterprise.

Much of British business is, as a result, seriously undermanaged compared with big companies on the Continent or in Japan. In the days when many industries were managed by union

power, managers would complain, justly, that they spent half their time dealing with internal labour matters. That left them only half to manage their businesses, boost sales, develop new products, new markets and better ways to make things. If only we could devote all our time to managing, they said, how much better industry would perform.

In most such industries, union power has been blown away. What has happened? Costs have, indeed, been cut dramatically. But instead of devoting twice as much time, energy and thought to managing, businesses have fired half their managers. The line is as thinly stretched as ever. Anyone without a profit-centre, any middle-aged manager not likely to get to the top, is liable to have been scythed away. Even Royal Dutch/Shell, epitome of the monolithically competent multinational, is about to mow down layers of managers to cut costs. Let's hope they do not regret it.

Last week accountants Kingston Smith published a fascinating study of 600 owner-managed businesses, *How Companies Succeeded in the Recession*, by Professor Roger Hussey of Bristol Business School. Among its many insights three were particularly apposite. The businesses that survived best had experienced managers. They relied least on cost-cutting. And on average, those with non-executive directors maintained higher profit margins.

In such smaller firms, these non-executives are not the worthy watchdogs of the Cadbury code. Typically, they are experienced professional or business people whose expertise and advice is on tap and, if truth be told, on the cheap. They provide the back-up and support of unthreatening equals that any manager needs.

Managers of subsidiaries, the sharp end of big business, are being deprived of just this support while their parent pluck boards are being stuffed with non-executives. Only a dynamic managing director and a finance director are required. And you can save even more money if you put the accountant or administrator in charge (or even the youthful derivatives trader). Accountability is a wonderful qualification for business. Many of our best managers are accountants. But being a good finance director does not make you a good manager.

In some modern groups, many fallible, isolated managers are really yesterday's bureaucrats, yearning devoted to keeping the bottom line on budget. Even compliance officers, or their non-financial equivalents, may be seen as no-men, or no-women, trying to keep their noses clean, rather than team members and advisers sharing responsibility.

In such a culture, the awkward but vital "what-if" questions are all too often not asked. Until the crisis comes. Crisis management, ah, that's real management, just like the old days of industrial conflict.

Avoid tough questions at your peril

Corporate insolvency strikes when a blind eye is turned, warns Graham Searjeant

The more revelations that are made about the failings of Barings, and the more incredible they become, the easier it is to paint the causes of this City disaster as "unique".

The Governor of the Bank of England was quick to do so, in the vital cause of allaying fear in the financial markets. The Chancellor eagerly followed to avoid responsibility. They might be the last to know. On reflection, only the terminally complacent would now think what happened to Barings "unique".

On the contrary, this novelish scandal bears uncanny similarities to a list of previous company collapses. The thinking that allowed it questions a generation of fashionable management thinking that is even now wreaking new havoc, for instance at British Gas.

One of the historic lessons of corporate insolvency is that disaster is most likely to strike when directors and investors choose not to ask awkward questions — or when auditors cannot.

Ferranti was laid low by the purchase of ISC because no-one could ask too many questions about big, lucrative but hush-hush international arms orders. As it turned out, they did not exist. Shareholders in Polly Peck did not ask too many questions about the suspiciously vast profits coming from tiny northern Cyprus. Directors of British & Commonwealth chose not to doubt the splendid-looking profits of Atlantic Computers. They did not

fully understand the arcane world of computer leasing. Barings made huge profits from derivatives in a far-off country. Don't rock the boat. Human nature will always incline

not to look a gift-horse too closely in the mouth. Human nature wants to avoid joint responsibility too. The role of that motive in modern management has not been questioned enough. Vast industrial empires have been built on the principle of devolving responsibility to managers of individual profit centres. Traditional companies are catching up as fast as they can, or faster.

Unravelling the centre, we are told, unleashes local managers' energies. It gives rein to initiative and frees them from the stifling burden of head-office bureaucracy. And so it does. But autonomy from head office only goes as far as the bottom line, often only the top line of the weekly, monthly or quarterly financial figures that managers of subsidiaries or departments must submit to the spiders at the centre of the web.

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The Barings scandal bears uncanny similarities to other collapses

Pentos failed in spite of NBA

Dillons was bought by Pentos in 1977. Mr Terry Maher, its accountant founder, then proceeded on what was to become his disastrous national policy of over-expansion, largely at the expense of his suppliers (many of whom eventually put Dillons on their "stop lists").

Perhaps the lesson is that bookkeeping should really be left to people like Miss Dillon and not to accountants. Yours faithfully, JOHN RAYBOULD, The Old Vicarage, High Street, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex.

From Mr John Raybould Sir, So, sadly, the Dillons bookshop chain "now joins other famous retail casualties" through the collapse of Pentos (report, March 2).

When I was a student at University College London in the 1950s, I can remember the late Miss Una Dillon, owner of the eponymous bookstore, telling me her ambition was to buy all the shops surrounding hers as they became available. She would, however, let the delightfully named Pride of Cockayne coffee shop survive in the middle of the block as the smoky-filled, espresso rendezvous for us impecunious students.

Miss Dillon's friendly bookshop along with the coffee shop disappeared when

UK merger control and issues of public interest

From Mr Roger Finbow and Mr Nigel Parr

Sir, We are concerned that comments made in Pennington (March 1) under "No monopoly in Monopoly" may have misled some readers.

It is a misconception that "the benchmark for any MMC inquiry is a merger that grabs more than a quarter of any market". The relevance of the so-called market share test contained in the Fair Trading Act is that a merger which results in control by the merged concern of 25 per cent or more of the relevant market qualifies for investigation: that is, the Secretary of State may refer it to the MMC if he considers it raises sufficient public interest issues. Thus, many mergers which produce market shares well in excess of 50 per cent are cleared without reference each year, whilst it is not particularly unusual for references to the MMC to be made in circumstances where the resultant market share is less than 25 per cent. Look at the beer industry for example.

Secondly, your writer is wrong in implying that the Secretary of State has, in the past, considered merger references on competition grounds alone (the article actually re-

fers — presumably mistakenly — to monopolies references). Since the 1964 Tebbit Statement, successive Secretaries of State have made merger references primarily on competition grounds but have always made clear, as the Fair Trading Act itself provides, that other public interest issues may merit a reference from time to time; and a number of non-competition references have indeed been made over the past ten years.

One can only speculate as to the strength of the OFT's conclusion in respect of the competition issues arising on the Hasbro/Waddington merger but, given that board games are essentially discretionary purchases which compete in spending terms with toys, electronic games and the like, we would have been more surprised if a reference had been made. Evidently, the OFT and your writer took a narrower view of market definition than we would have thought appropriate.

Sir Bryan Carsberg's comments of last week are interesting, and are a helpful contribution to what is likely to become an increasing debate, but we disagree with him, at least as regards merger con-

trol, although we believe he was referring to monopoly and anti-competitive practice inquiries). As we argue in the concluding chapter of our publication on *UK Merger Control*, whilst UK merger control is not perfect, the regime is broadly fair and, at the MMC stage, relatively transparent. Although some disadvantages, notably of timing and the degree of burden imposed on business, arise out of separation of merger vetting and investigation from the enforcement of remedial action, the independence of the MMC frees them from internal conflicts of interest and from any obligation to implement the policies of the government of the day. In that respect, the UK approach constitutes a better compromise than the EC Merger Regulation, the application of which, many would argue, is potentially subject to excessive political influence and pressure, leading to opacity, unnecessary confusion and a lack of accountability. Yours faithfully, ROGER FINBOW NIGEL PARR Ashurst Morris Crisp, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, EC2.

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Tobacco at the Bank

From Mr F. Paul Taylor Sir, "A chain-smoking Governor named Eddie..." (Eddie George rhyme, City Diary, March 2). How can we have confidence in the future when our finances are in the hands of one who has neither the wisdom nor the willpower to give up smoking? Yours faithfully, F. PAUL TAYLOR, 7 Kingsway, Cheshire.

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NOTES

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Relying this discipline's "dry as dust" reputation, our top five City firm clients' pensions department includes many personalities with both technical expertise and sense of humour! If you can see the funny side of pension scheme documentation and regulatory support work and have 1-4 years' post in this sphere this outstanding practice may be for you!

IP/LITIGATION

Ten strong intellectual property department seeks litigator with licensing and franchising experience to augment this internally high flying unit. You will have roughly two years' post gained in another central London firm and have ability to make contribution to this department's formidable reputation. You should have sound foundation in IP/trademarks work for a wide portfolio of clients.

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Exceptionally well organised firm in plush offices and enjoying substantial upturn in corporate field with masses of high profile government work now looks for 2-4 year qualified corporate specialist with asset finance and utilities background. Exciting, multi-national workload should appeal to ambitious forward looking lawyers. This City practice has formidable all-round reputation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

Increasingly international medium-sized central London firm with high class suppliers, radio and software licences clientele now in the market for ambitious 1-3 year qualified lawyers with strong regulatory experience. Your transactional exposure should include licensing for software and cable companies. Exciting, dynamic department offers considerable scope for career development and active part in fostering client relationships.



The above represents a small proportion of our recent instructions. For more information, in strictest confidence on these or other career opportunities please feel free to contact Hugh Kelly or Mark Field on 0171 588 7878 (0171 351 6832 weekends) or write to them at Kellyfield Consulting, Second Floor, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET. Confidential fax: 0171 588 7020.

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We are a 35 partner City practice with a strong commitment to private client and tax work. We are looking for an assistant solicitor with around 4 years post qualification experience, a good grounding in trust and tax law and experience of advising UK and foreign domiciled individuals and trustees.

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Recruitment Partner

NICHOLSON GRAHAM & JONES
25-31 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AR
Telephone: 0171 628 9151

NICHOLSON GRAHAM & JONES

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Our client is a nationally recognised name in the personal injury market.

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- We provide services for some of the world's most successful multi-nationals, not from the City but from London's Docklands
- You won't see suits in our office, or the attitudes that so often go with them
- Although we are a young firm, we invest in our people and in our support technology. (Everyone in the firm uses state of the art document and information management technology which would be the envy of most firms.)

We are looking for two young solicitors or barristers, with a maximum of two years' experience since qualifying and the enthusiasm, creativity and commitment that our busy and exciting practice demands.

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LAW

● PRESS REGULATION 35
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Frances Gibb reports on Birmingham's legal revolution, and, right, on a solicitor-businesswoman's struggle

Boom time in the Brummie Bar

Birmingham is going through a quiet revolution. For decades, lawyers have had their sights trained on London. Now they are starting to think "homegrown". Clients who always headed for the capital for big commercial deals now use local law firms. And solicitors are briefing local counsel, who are rapidly developing the expertise to compete with London chambers.

Crucially, too, Birmingham is getting its own courts. First came Official Referees (the judges who deal with big construction industry disputes). Then in September 1993, the Birmingham Mercantile Court opened. Just before Christmas came the announcement that Birmingham (with Bristol and Cardiff) would be on a circuit for a High Court judge. Mr Justice Chadwick, going out to take Chancery work. There is now talk that for the first time, judicial review cases will be handled outside London — and Birmingham is the likely place.

It is the hub of the Midlands and Oxford circuit. Since the 1960s, when there were 65 barristers in the city, there has been massive growth. Now the Bar is 340-strong, in 13 sets including 5 Fountain Court, which, with more than 60 barristers, is the biggest in the country. There is also a substantial Bar in Nottingham, as well as sets in Leicester, Northampton, Oxford, Stoke and Wolverhampton — a total of 1,000. Two-thirds of these are in chambers on circuit and the rest, though part of the circuit, are in London sets.

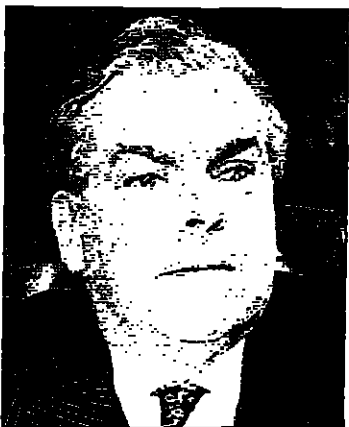
Traditionally, the bread-and-butter work of the circuit Bar is crime and common law. The Criminal Bar still thrives, but most sets now do other work, too. Richard Wakerley, QC, leader of the circuit, says: "Birmingham was slow to respond to the needs of solicitors by building up specialist areas of work, but that is now happening."

For example, his set, 4 Fountain Court, has seen a rapid growth in civil and commercial work. It has specialists in banking, asset finance, mortgages, personal injury work and consumer credit.

The Bar, once scattered about the

city, came together in 1965 at Fountain Court in Steelhouse Lane, close to the courts. Now it is outgrowing the building and three sets have moved into other parts of the city. There are also new courts: county courts in the Priory, along with the Mercantile Court, and the Queen Elizabeth II crown court building.

Despite the prospects for civil and commercial work, there are concerns. Chief of these at the Birmingham Bar, as elsewhere, is the competition in the criminal courts. There is strong support for the new system of legal aid fees, known as graduated fees, now being negotiated by the Bar and the Lord Chancellor's Department.



Richard Wakerley, QC: leader of the circuit

This, Mr Wakerley says, would improve much-needed cash flow by speeding up legal aid payments.

Recruitment policy in recent years has been geared to the growth of work. Competition is still tough for pupils, but one big difference from London is that most pupils, once taken on, tend to be retained as tenants. Mr Wakerley said: "When the Bar was smaller, you couldn't take on pupils, select those you wanted and leave the others high and dry. Other chambers did not have the resources to snap them up."

More than 40 pupils have been taken on annually at the Birmingham Bar in the past three years, a growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent a

year. A set such as Fountain Court will pick one or two pupils from 100 or more applications. But there is opposition to any kind of clearing-house system, as is now being looked at for the London Bar.

Rhona Campbell, 23, is one of the new recruits to the Birmingham Bar. Just six months after she became a tenant, her earnings this year are estimated to be £35,000. She chose the regional Bar deliberately because of "the problems in London" and 4 Fountain Court offered her a place. She does a mixed workload of crime, civil and commercial but her practice is taking off, particularly in civil law. She is already handling county court trials (such as personal injury claims of up to £10,000).

Her earnings are unusually high: the average at her level would be nearer £25,000 a year, especially for those doing crime. The life, she says, is good. "To some extent," she says, "you're always going to be the person sent to Hereford at 4.30 on a Friday. But compared with my London counterparts, there seems to be lots of good-quality work. I'm in court every day."

The work involves travelling further afield than in London. The Bar in the city covers Wolverhampton and the whole Black Country, as well as Stoke, Warwick and Coventry, while the eastern side — Lincoln, Northampton and Peterborough — is roughly covered by the circuit's chambers in London. But she says: "The travelling is probably easier."

She has no plans to head for the capital. "I am not aiming to be a specialist of the kind that would require me to be in London."

The days are also gone, Mr Wakerley says, when it was "off to London" once you had taken silk. "I hope the idea that not all work has to go to London will grow," he adds. "I'm feeling very positive. There have always been solicitors who want to use London counsel, but the object of a local Bar is to provide a service for the professional solicitors and the lay client. There is an increasing demand for that specialist work to be done in Birmingham, and the Bar needs to meet that demand."



Rifat Mushtaq: "I had been qualified for five years, and it had always been my vision to run my own practice"

Rifat Mushtaq's office is as far from the sumptuous marble and chrome settings of City of London solicitors as you could find. In the heart of Birmingham (five minutes from New Street station), her premises are squashed next to the local Labour Party. Inside, the cheaply carpeted rooms are divided by flimsy partitions and sparsely furnished. That she is there at all is a mark of her tenacity in the face of a series of obstacles that would have put many another firm under.

Just 18 months ago, Ms Mushtaq, 37, decided to set up on her own. "I had been qualified for five years," she says, "and it had always been my vision to run my own practice." Her daughter, 18 months, had started at full-time nursery. Then she spotted the centrally positioned premises.

She received a £2,000 enterprise grant from the council, but the rest of the backing came from savings and family. "No banks would lend to me, despite my submitting a detailed corporate plan," she says.

Tough fight for survival

"So for the first year I ran without an overdraft facility."

She now has seven staff (four fee-earners), and a mixed practice (legal aid and private) with a specialist service in VAT appeals work, a growing area.

Choice of work has been crucial. As well as the VAT, she deliberately chose criminal legal aid because the payments are more regular than with civil legal aid. Conveyancing, too, the firm handles, but it cannot be relied on.

There was also, then, the problem of attracting the right staff at the right salaries. Ms Mushtaq was lucky enough to secure two experienced practitioners, one in crime, the other in housing. But she says: "At the end of the month,

you have to meet that wages bill. And for the first few months you get no return from the fee-earners."

Just as the firm was getting on its feet, disaster struck. Mushtaq & Co fell foul of a Legal Aid Board investigation of Birmingham firms suspected of legal aid "green form" (advice) abuse, and in June, without warning, the board told her the firm's account was being frozen and that no more payments would be made. She recalls: "It happened just like that. It was a terrible blow — but we weren't the only ones. It could have put us under."

Visits from the board and scrutiny of files followed. At the time, there was concern about firms canvassing for legal aid clients. "It turned out that some green forms

had been put through people's doors. I now make sure I see every green form myself."

Eight weeks later, the suspension was lifted. "During that time," she says, "I needed up to £5,000 a month to meet wages, drawing nothing myself."

Then, two days before Christmas, came a call to say the premises were on fire. Several thousand pounds' worth of cleaning and redecorating had been spent when she took on the rent; now much needs redoing to repair the estimated £25,000 damage. A man has been charged with arson.

But she intends to battle on. She also hopes to make the Labour Party shortlist for Edgbaston or Bradford and she plans to expand the Law Society's indemnity insurance weighs heavily against small firms and she can cut her premium if turnover reaches £500,000 a year. "At one stage, I wondered whether it was worth it. But I won't give up. I've put too much money in — and there's a hard core of work getting bigger all the time."

Edward Fennell sees a lot of growth in England's second city

As manufacturing spearheads the export-based mini-boom, it is only right that Birmingham, heart of the engineering industry, should be this year's favourite city for legal development. Garret & Co., the hotshot protégé of the accountants Arthur Andersen, has announced it will open offices in Birmingham in the summer. Meanwhile, Dibb Lupton Broomhead, the Yorkshire-based national firm, is quickly building up its Birmingham team, cherry-picking from local rivals and bringing in expertise from London.

But the biggest symbol of Birmingham's growing strength was the announcement in the new year that American Airlines is launching a daily service from Chicago. At a dinner hosted last week by the Birmingham law firm Wragge & Co., which had been instrumental in setting up the deal, the great and the good of the city gathered to welcome the top executives from American.

Traditionally, there have been four main law firms in the West Midlands — Wragge's, Eversheds, Pinsent & Co. and Edge & Ellison. Other leading legal

Beyond the city boundaries

centres may have had difficulties, but relations between these firms have always been cordial — some would say to the point of cosiness. Will that generosity of spirit be extended to Dibb Lupton Broomhead, in Birmingham for just over a year, and to Garret?

John Winkworth Smith, the local managing partner of Dibbs, has gone to the city after spending 30 years in Sheffield. He said: "I've had a friendly reception but have been viewed with a certain degree of suspicion."

These suspicions may be justified. Dibbs, as elsewhere in the country, is intent on growth. With its hard-nosed business approach, it believes it can attract high-achieving young partners

from other firms who are tired of Brummie parochialism. The truth is, however, that Birmingham's top four firms have all got strong national and international practices.

Digby Jones, the senior partner-elect at Edge & Ellison, says: "I'm considering opening offices in four other cities. The time has come for us to develop national coverage, but we shall do so only where we can find a perfect fit with local firms." Edge & Ellison is intent on turning the tables on Dibbs by playing the Leeds firm at its own game.

Mr Jones shares with John Crabtree of Wragges and Julian Tonks of Pinsents a deep Brummie allegiance. "More than half my fellow partners were born, brought up and educated within five miles of this office," says Mr Jones. "In addition to wanting the firm to succeed, I am equally keen that Birmingham should do well."

The top gossip in Birmingham last week, however, was of a possible merger between Pinsents and the Leeds firm Simpson Curtis. The sifting of the headquarters of such a merged firm would require the judgment of a Solomon.

and Peter Desmond Philip FitzGerald, the two Fladgates partners, are cousins and both farmers' sons.

THE reception for barristers at Gray's Inn arbitration room next week being hosted to forge student contacts with chambers ahead of the scramble for places is being held by City University students, not City of London Polytechnic, as reported last week.

Spare a penny...

A survey by recruitment consultants Quarry Douglall of London firms with more than 25 partners found that only a fifth give paid paternity leave and 14 per cent do not operate a pension scheme.

SCRIVENOR

Country cousins

AN agricultural merger: the partners in the agricultural estates team at the London solicitors Fladgate Fielder this week join Wilsons in Salisbury. Peter Robin FitzGerald

INNS AND OUTS

A model court

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern; the Lord Chief Justice; the Master of the Rolls and the Attorney-General were among the top legal names who went to last week's Guildhall reception to commemorate the centenary of the Commercial Court. Mr Justice Porter, currently its chairman, said that like his predecessors he was determined to maintain its reputation for "user-friendly" justice.

The court had always sought to adjust procedures to keep pace with the demands of commercial litigation. Or, as Christopher Clarke, QC, said, it was created to combine

judicial expertise with efficient procedures "unburdened by the dead weight of legal formalism, archaic practices or a lack of grip on commercial reality".

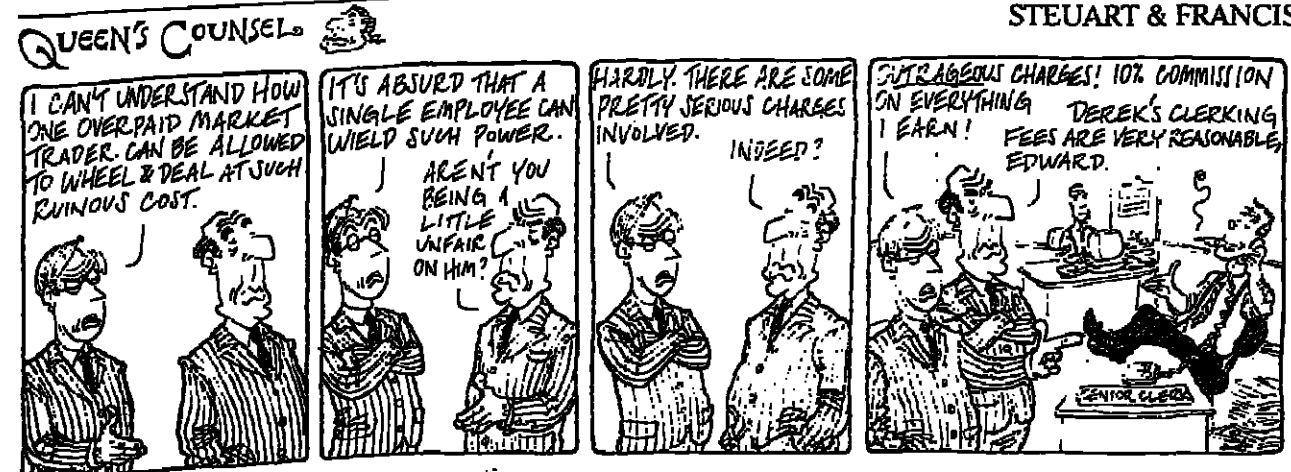
The proof of its success is that Lord Woolf is now looking towards the court as a model for some of his proposed forthcoming reforms for the civil courts generally.

Under-esteemed

MR Justice Wall, a High Court judge in the Family Division, attacked the "low esteem" in which family judges and their work are held com-

pared with other High Court divisions when speaking last week to the Council for Family Proceedings AGM.

The work of family High Court judges was as taxing and broad as any other, yet it was not "perceived to have the importance or status which crime or other civil litigation is deemed to have".



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- motivation, enthusiasm and confidence;
- a lively and approachable personality; and
- a real understanding of clients and their businesses.

You want a career with a firm that

- maintains the highest standards of professionalism;
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- promotes a team-based and supportive culture;
- demonstrates care and concern for your career; and
- provides significant opportunities to work overseas.

We welcome applications from candidates qualified in the UK or abroad at the 2-4 year ppe level who have an ambition to join in our future. Fluency in a foreign language would be most valuable.

Please call Jonathon Hill on 0171 832 7325 or write to him at 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HS.



FRESHFIELDS



Alternatively, for an initial discussion in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry, Deborah Dalgleish or William Cock of our consultants Quarry Douglall Recruitment, on 0171-405 6062 or write to them at 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

TAX
GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Allen & Overy's corporate tax department makes a major contribution to the firm's practice, dealing with the full range of transactional and advisory work for corporate and financial clients. There is an increasing variety of innovative and technically demanding transactions with a heavy emphasis on constructive and creative tax input. We are committed to the development of our corporate tax capability and we currently have the following opportunities:

STRUCTURED FINANCE

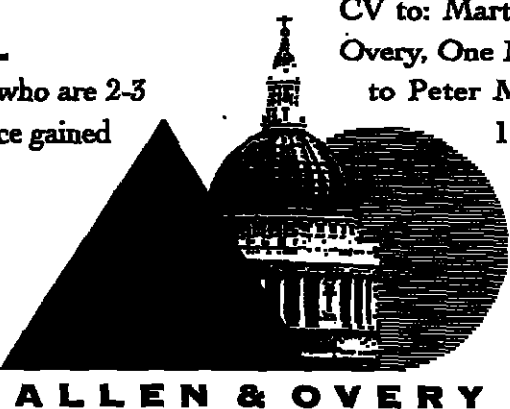
We are looking for high calibre assistants with experience in securitisation, finance leasing or structured finance generally, who are at least 4 years qualified.

GENERAL COMMERCIAL

We are looking for high calibre assistants who are 2-3 years qualified with corporate tax experience gained in a leading firm.

We can offer you the highest quality work, real responsibility and the opportunity to make full use of your potential.

If you would like to be considered, please write with full CV to: Martin Pexton, Director of Personnel, Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ, or speak to Peter Morris at Brewer Morris, Ludgate House, 107 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB, telephone 0171 936 2040.



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City practice requires a further commercial litigator with a strong academic record and between 2-3 years' relevant post qualification experience to deal with all aspects of commercial litigation.

The firm is committed to expanding all areas of the practice and the individual will be expected to contribute to the continuing development of the litigation department.

A competitive salary will be offered according to age and experience.

Apply in writing enclosing a current C.V. to Richard Monkton (Staff Partner), Druces & Attlee, Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 5PS.

CROWN COURT ADVOCATE
EAST MIDLANDS

Our Crown Court department is expanding and we now require a further advocate. Applications are invited from barristers of at least 2 years call, who have a good criminal law background and who are willing to qualify as solicitors.

The firm has an excellent reputation and the work is demanding, but rewarding. There are good career prospects and job security. The working atmosphere is friendly and informal.

The post is ideal for those who wish to have close management and maximum control of their own work.

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For further details please contact Graham Dens or Keith Rayner on 01332 346884

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UK / INTERNATIONAL

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As one of the most successful firms in the North of England, our Client has a strong, well balanced practice and has a high proportion of the top local corporate and institutional clients. Significant growth is expected over the next 3-5 years and an additional partner is sought, preferably with a track record as a top City or Provincial firm, with excellent management and leadership skills, to join as head of department. Partnership remuneration commensurate with the level of the firm's London competitors. (Ref:3337)

TAX 2+ TO £65,000
Well managed City firm seeks a number of assistants for its expanding Tax Department, which advises blue chip clients on all aspects of corporate tax and VAT. Unusually broad spread of work and a relaxed, open door environment. It is essential to have at least 2 years' relevant experience with a desire to be involved in ongoing marketing initiatives. There is also the capacity to take a six year qualified assistant for a partner designate role. (Ref:4339)

CORPORATE PARTNER - KIEV £50,000
Leading international firm seeks to recruit an additional partner/senior assistant to add critical mass to its busy Kiev office. Work is a general mix of corporate and commercial for large multinationals and local subsidiary companies. The firm envisages a minimum three year commitment with a view to returning to the London partnership thereafter. (Ref:4322)

INSURANCE/FRAUD LIT £CITY
Exceptionally strong litigation practice in busy City firm seeks additional litigator to join general group. Immediate involvement in solicitors' negligence, corporate fraud, insolvency and more general insurance disputes. Ideal level is 3-4 years and previous involvement in large scale international litigation is essential. Good opportunity to join high profile group at a firm renowned for lack of lag time. (Ref:4344)

PROPERTY LIT £COMPETITIVE
High profile medium-sized firm with strong reputation in the litigation sphere seeks additional property litigator. Ideal level is 1-4 years' post qualification with directly relevant experience in articles will also be considered. Individuals must have strong academic credentials, a lively, outgoing personality and, ideally, a top City firm background. Excellent opportunity with immediate and direct client contact at a well managed firm offering a highly competitive salary and a uniquely informal working atmosphere. (Ref:3873)

SENIOR CONSTRUCTION TO £70,000
Medium-sized London firm seeks to integrate a senior construction specialist as partner or partner designate level. Existing dedicated group with mix of contentious and non-contentious work which already acts on behalf of first rate clients. Individual must have a high profile in this area and have a demonstrable record in attracting top quality work. Genuine gap at partner level and opportunity for involvement in managing the group. High level of remuneration envisaged. (Ref:4342)

INSURANCE TO £55,000
Top ten firm with one of the City's most highly regarded corporate practices seeks non-contentious insurance specialists, 4-6 years qualified. As part of the Corporate Department, the successful candidate will advise a range of clients including life insurance companies, brokers, intermediaries and securities on a range of company/commercial insurance issues. Key appointment in specialisation offering excellent long term prospects. (Ref:4338)

EMPLOYMENT MIX TO £40,000
Well established medium-sized City firm with busy Employment Group seeks further assistance to join high profile department. Work comprises interesting mix of contentious and non-contentious with the opportunity for immediate responsibility in a relaxed environment. Ideal level is 3-5 years and demonstrable communication skills are essential. (Ref:4347)

EC/COMPETITION - BRUSSELS £EXCELLENT
Small, informal Brussels office of well regarded medium-sized City firm seeks additional assistant for minimum 2 year position. Candidates must have an excellent academic background and mix of fee earning work will include IP, IT, pharmaceuticals, telecoms and multi media. Ideal level is 1-3 years' post. An outgoing, proactive personality and good interpersonal skills are essential. (Ref:3390)

PROPERTY TO £30-45,000
Leading medium-sized City firm requires an additional assistant to participate in high profile development work within its expanding Property Department. Firm has a pre-eminent reputation in the property field and the ideal candidate will come from a similarly regarded firm. Clients range from developers, investors and retailers to banks and institutions. Outstanding opportunity for 1-4 year qualified lawyer with good academic, enthusiasm and flair. (Ref:3741)

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The above represents a small selection of the vacancies presently registered with us. To find out more, in complete confidence, please contact Andrew Russell, Lisa Hicke or Miranda Smyth (all qualified lawyers) on 071-377 0510 (071-733 815 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 071-247 5174. E-mail: andrew@zmb.co.uk

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- The Client** A financing division of a diverse, US owned, Fortune 50 multinational corporation whose business interests range from primary manufacturing to financial services.
- The Job** Senior legal adviser supporting the European Managing Director and senior management on international acquisitions, vendor agreements, lease finance, security documentation and a host of other general commercial issues.
- The Experience** At least 6-8 years' post qualification combining acquisitions, finance (preferably equipment leasing) and transactional work gained at a top rated commercial law firm and possibly in-house.
- The Individual** A UK or foreign qualified lawyer of partner quality who can demonstrate a genuine ability to provide user-friendly, business orientated, timely and high quality legal advice.
- The Benefits** An excellent compensation package and long term career opportunities in the UK and internationally with other group companies.

For further information in complete confidence please contact Sally Horrocks or Jonathan Macrae on 0171-377 0510 (evenings/weekends 0171-731 4858) or alternatively, write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail: sally@zmb.co.uk

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY to c. £50,000

This medium sized city firm has a varied and interesting portfolio of lending, and developer clients. They require a high calibre commercial property lawyer up to four years' admitted with good client liaison skills. Excellent prospects.

CORPORATE FINANCE £32-£35,000

Our client is a major city firm with a strong international profile. They require a solicitor with two years' corporate finance experience gained in a blue-chip environment to strengthen this busy and successful team.

IT/COMMUNICATION c. £42,000

Prestigious city practice seeks a three year qualified assistant to work in the fast-moving IT environment. Some relevant experience preferred, but solicitors with a sound commercial background and a high level of commitment to IT will be considered.

LANGUAGE SKILLS 6 months - 5 years

We are instructed by a number of firms seeking commercial lawyers with a good command of a second language. Exciting opportunities exist both in the U.K. and overseas for German, Russian, Polish and Japanese speakers.

LITIGATION £50,000 +

Central London firm with outstanding international commercial litigation practice, requires a litigation assistant up to five years' qualified with experience in arbitration work. There will be considerable opportunities for advocacy.

PARTNER DESIGNATE £150,000 +

This high profile Central London firm is seeking a personable solicitor with heavyweight experience in general commercial work - ideally with a media or communications bias - to help develop their growing client portfolio. Immediate partnership is a possibility for the right candidate.

The above list represents a small selection of our current instructions. For further information, or for a confidential and informal discussion please contact: Simon Anderson at the above address or by telephone: 0171 353 7007 or confidential fax: 0171 353 7008

Lecturers/Senior Lecturers/
Readers in Law
(two posts: ref 890/7)

This expanding Law Department is committed to learning, teaching and research excellence. Two posts are available at lecturer, senior lecturer or reader level. Preference will be given to applicants with an interest in the core areas of the law syllabus and for the senior posts a consistent record of research and publication is essential.

These posts are full-time and offered on continuing contracts. Appointments will be made to one of the following scales according to qualifications and relevant experience: Lecturer (A or B) scales from £16,800 to £27,800; Senior Lecturer or Reader scale from £29,153 to £32,607 including London Allowance.

Teaching Fellows in Law
(two posts: ref 891/7)

The Department also has opportunities for two teaching fellows. They undertake teaching and pastoral care duties. These are full-time fixed-term posts available from September 1995 for 2 years. Salaries will be on the Lecturer (A or B) scales from £16,800 to £27,800 including London Allowance.

Department of Law

Application forms and further particulars for all posts are available from the Deputy Academic Registrar's Office, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HH. Tel: 0171 777 8031 (24 hr answerphone). Please quote appropriate reference.

Closing date for all posts: 26th March 1995.

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Guernsey is a self governing dependency of the Crown. H M Attorney General and H M Solicitor General are the legal advisers in Guernsey both to Her Majesty and to the States of Guernsey (the Island government). Their duties include the drafting of all legislation on behalf of the States, providing legal advice to the States and their Committees and responsibility for criminal prosecutions.

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Completed application forms should be returned to the Head of Personnel and Establishments, Civil Service Board, Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1FH to arrive no later than 14 April 1995.

مركزنا للأعمال



GALLERIES page 36
An ambitious show of
Picasso's animal
images opens a new
arts centre in Croydon

ARTS

DANCE page 38
John Auld is a harmless
Doctor Coppelius in
Birmingham Royal
Ballet's new production



Battersea power situation

The chance to do more than just act has drawn Susannah York to fringe theatre once again. Michael Arditti reports

Nothing reflects the change in London theatre more clearly than the location of its stars. Gone are the great Shaftesbury Avenue constellations of 30 years ago. Indeed, Maggie Smith and Felicity Kendal are the only two indisputable star females currently to be seen in the West End. Janet Suzman, Claire Bloom and Diana Rigg have recently worked in Islington, north London, while in the past year Battersea, in the southwest, has hosted performances by Vanessa Redgrave, Susan Hampshire and now Susannah York — who claims credit for blazing the trail. "I started the move with *The Singular Life of Albert Nobbs* in 1978. My agent was very unsure. You weren't getting proper fees. And a lot of people judge you by what you earn, especially in America."

She has since made regular visits to the Fringe in Kleist's *Penthesilea*, her own translation of Cocteau's *The Human Voice*, and Daphne du Maurier's *September Tide*. Now she returns to the Latchmere in a new one-woman play, *Independent State*. She believes that the quality of such work offsets the lack of remuneration. "You get asked to do interesting projects, not projects you can be sure about. There's a feeling of danger. You can take risks because there haven't been great outlays of money. You can do plays which, unless you're at the RSC or the National, you'd never have a chance to do."

She has never acted with either of the two main subsidised companies; although "I was asked to play Titania by Bill Alexander. But the kids were at school; and I couldn't go up to

Stratford for six months." Nevertheless, she has always tried to balance appearances in modern and classical drama. "I've just played *Ranevskaya* in *The Cherry Orchard*. It was such heaven to play a part that's been tested; they stand up so well as characters. There again, it's very exciting to think that you're breaking new ground. I love to work with writers."

Working on the Fringe also allows her a far greater measure of control than she would have in the commercial theatre or one of the large companies. "I'm very interested in creative producing. I can't get to grips with the money, but I like the idea of getting things done."

She has been involved with *Independent State* since its inception, having solicited the script from a literary agent after the offer of a British

Council tour. "I read quite a few plays. This one really grabbed me. She's such a terrific character, Patty O'Brien, a woman who wanted to be a country-and-western singer in her teens. She played a few clubs and then got married and sucked into the system. On the outside, she led an incredibly drab and grey life; but she had a very rich *vie intérieure* to do with her dreams and fantasies. She was very earthy, very funny. She reminded me of *Mehitabel* in the *Dom Marquis* stories, the allegory who comes in from dreadful adventures, bloody but unbowed."

Having committed herself to the play, she worked on it for a year with the author, Mark Davies. "It's only through talking and talking to Mark that we've got it right. I've been a good sounding-board. He's written it



"I didn't have any musical education, so I don't understand about bars and when to come in," Susannah York says about her new role as a country singer

round and for me. The beginning and end and where it takes place — a room in Nashville — haven't changed; but much else has."

The most crucial change has been the character's background. "She started life as a Liverpudlian from Bootle; she became an Irish Catholic from Fulham. It's to do with the fact that I want to travel with the play. The Liverpudlian accent is hard in Europe, whereas the Irish allows more lyricism."

One of the greatest challenges of the role has been the inclusion of country songs. "I didn't have any musical education, so I don't understand about bars and when to come in. I don't have such a problem hitting notes, but I'm always about three miles ahead."

Her creative contribution comes as no surprise — it was much the same when, as a young actress, she first appeared in films. "What you were given to say was often so banal that you rewrote it," she says. Even then,

she was not cowed by reputations. Her second film, *Freud*, was made with Montgomery Clift for John Huston. "Huston would write scenes for us and this purple dialogue would pour out. Mony and I would go back to the hotel and gaze and groan and rewrite it. It stuck in your gut."

Later, she originally turned down her Oscar-nominated role in *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* because she considered the part lacked truth. "I felt it was a wonderful story; but I couldn't play the character as written. I wrote a 20-page letter to James Poe [the original director] about her; and I got really excited because the character was starting to emerge. Then, when Sidney Pollack came on board, he read my letter and was very pleased with the direction the character was taking. So we went ahead."

The process was similar with her favourite film, Robert Altman's *Images*, for which she won the Best Actress award at Cannes. "When I first read the script, I thought I can't

play this part. I don't know this woman, what she is and does and dreams. Bob said: 'I have to wait and find my actress and see what happens.' It was a great collaborative effort."

They recently renewed their collaboration by working together on the first draft of *Prêt-à-Porter*, in which York's daughter plays a small role.

Collaboration is the key to all York's work, whether on stage or screen. "What I love is the co-operative nature: getting together to put something on, to explore." With that in mind, she will remain at the Latchmere, after *Independent State* closes, to direct a new American double bill. "It's very inspiring seeing people coming through to the best of themselves. And it's a million times more exciting than doing *Trainer*."

Independent State is at the Latchmere Theatre, 303 Battersea Park Road, SW11 6PT (22-23.359) from tomorrow until April 2 (except Mondays)

CONCERTS IN LONDON

Finest funeral of 17th century

Music for
Queen Mary
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Abbey/BBC

TREMORS of mortality shook the Abbey on Sunday, on the 300th anniversary of Queen Mary's funeral there. But had it not been for Purcell we would doubtless have forgotten all about it. Thomas Shadwell was, after all, expressing something of a fond hope when he wrote that "No more shall we the great Eliza boast. For her great name in greater Mary's will be lost."

Those lines, from the end of Purcell's *Birthday Ode* *Now does the glorious day appear*, were given the lie within minutes on the same evening, as the capacity audience thrilled to the austere beauty of music of Thomas Morley, emblem of the incomparable musical achievement of the first Elizabethan age.

Bruce Wood's research on Purcell's *Funeral Music* for Queen Mary two years ago has made it *de rigueur* to perform it hand-in-glove with Morley's *Burial Sentences*. The effect is stunning: Purcell's own *Thou knowest, Lord* breathes out from the last note of Morley's *In the midst of life*. And Morley's *I heard a voice* tunes sweetly into Purcell's dying fall.

This sequence, performed with steady sobriety by the Westminster Abbey Choir and the New London Consort, was the centrepiece of Martin Neary's dignified re-creation of the complete *Funeral Music*. Re-creation is a peculiarly tricky thing, and never more so than when the combined technical prowess of BBC2 and Radio 3 is on hand. Those at home may well have had a more authentic *Funeral Experience* than those of us instructed by clergy, dazzled by lights and mesmerised by TV monitors.

But nothing could distract from the singing of Emma Kirkby, from counter-tenor Michael Chance's "beauteous softness" with theobro, and from the exquisite fusion of word and musical phrase in Ian Bostridge's performance of Blow's *The sullen years* are past.

HILARY FINCH

Birthday fizz

LSO/Boulez
Barbican

THESE are halcyon days for the London Symphony Orchestra. Two more instalments, last Thursday and Sunday, in its Pierre Boulez seventeenth birthday celebrations brought two more packed houses and two programmes that combined refined pieces by the master with other great pieces of our own century.

On Thursday there was a cool, beautifully balanced reading of Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin*, music whose refinement points the way to the kind of artist that Boulez is. It is the colours that give this music impetus, and it was the colours that dictated Boulez's natural pacing of each movement here. But nothing would have been possible without the orchestra's meticulous concentration. This was an exhibition of refinement par excellence — as, in Sunday night's concert, was the LSO's performance of the same composer's rather less abstract *Mother Goose Suite*.

Kyung Wha Chung crowned the first concert with magnificent playing in Bartók's *Second Violin Concerto*. So often the concerto seems a ritual where one party is heliborn on exhibi-

tionism and the other merely fulfils what it sees as a second-fiddle duty. There was none of that here. If Bartók had to be in one concert, Stravinsky had to be in the other; in this case the original, 1911 version of *Petrushka*. The brusque intercutting from one scene or mood to the next is not dissimilar to the juxtaposition of contrasting blocks of sound in the enraptured celebration of nature which is Messiaen's *Chronochromie* of 1960, heard earlier. And Boulez's own delight in contrast was exemplified by the performance here of his gift to Paul Sacher on the latter's own seventeenth birthday in 1976, *Messiaen's*, for seven cellos, six of which accompany the line of the principal soloist.

Rostropovich was due to take the limelight but withdrew because of flu. But the LSO's new joint principal cello, Timothy Hugh, stepped into the breach with accomplishment.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Hooray for Hollywood

John Gregory Dunne writes films so that he can afford to write books.

With the latest of the latter in the shops, he talks to Clive Davis



John Gregory Dunne happily bucks the studio system

tangled, elliptical narrative are intertwined the stories of two human failures — Blue Tyler, a profane, fornicating, independently wealthy screenwriter, Jack Broderick, a character who first appeared in Dunne's earlier novel, *Red White and Blue*.

Through a series of flashbacks, we follow Broderick's self-imposed quest to discover exactly why Tyler's career came to an abrupt end in the early 1950s, and why, 40 years later, she is a bag lady living in a trailer park in Michigan. The inquiry draws Broderick into a world of gangsters, double-dealing and sex. Driven along by unlikely coincidences, the plot delves deep into the conventions of melodrama. The vigorous, hard-boiled prose and the clever juggling of narrative voices help to keep the story from toppling into absurdity. And there is fun to be had from seeing actual celebrities — from Walter Winchell to Car-

ole Lombard — woven into the story, as well as trying to determine whether, for instance, the camp, gossip film director Chuckie O'Hara is based on George Cukor.

Dunne denies that he set out to write a *roman à clef*, but admits that he drew part of his initial inspiration from real characters. One of his clearest memories of his first years in New York, in the late 1950s, was spending evenings in a bar where one of the regulars was a faded, middle-aged woman whom he later discovered was the former star Veronica Lake.

That Dunne ever completed the manuscript of *Playland* says much for his tenacity. After a series of false starts he struggled with the storyline before being laid low by a potentially fatal heart condition. Major surgery followed. (It lasted 337 minutes — he knows this because the anaesthetist billed him by the minute.) Then a serious blood

infection, caused by an insect bite, landed him back in hospital. It was while he was incapacitated that he began to impose some order on his material.

As for contemporary Hollywood, he claims to find it "too dull" to be worth writing a novel about. It so happened that the day we met was the day that the Oscar nominations were announced. Dunne, an Academy member himself (as is his wife) pronounced it "not a particularly good year".

Pulp Fiction is over-rated, *Reservoir Dogs*, he thinks, was a much better film. He did not dislike *Forrest Gump* as much as he had expected, but still found it "a stupid, feel-good movie". The best picture of the year, for his money, was the basketball documentary *Hoop Dreams*.

Real life and rounded characters, he thinks, more likely to be found in high-quality television series than in the cinema, a medium

dominated more and more by movie brats who lack even a passing acquaintance with the world beyond the screening rooms. Dunne's disdain brings to mind one of Broderick's reflections in *Playland*: "I like writing movies. I am good at it, quick and always in demand. Movies provide me with a good living that I don't actually need."

Given their literary reputations, surely he and Didion are free to turn their back on the studio accountants and the boneheaded producers? He shakes his head: the screenplays that they have written — including the 1976 version of *A Star is Born*, the adaptation of Dunne's own novel *True Confessions* and others which never reached the screen — have all served a larger purpose. Without the royalties and the money from quickie rewrite commissions, they would not have had the means to publish 20-odd books between them.

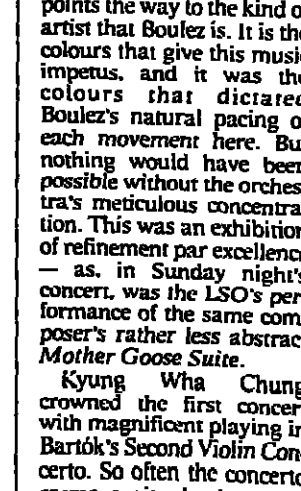
As for the notion that all good writers are ruined by the studios, he waves it aside. "I've always thought that that was rubbish. The people who went to Hollywood and were ruined forever would have been ruined at 71st Street and Madison, or in Detroit or wherever they happened to be. They were raw material for being ruined."

Playland is published by Granta Books (£14.99)

lives of prostitutes that we are hard put to distinguish Ternan from any old good-time girl.

Set against this, however, is the vivid creation of an altogether artificial society where illusion rules, in the theatre, in fiction and between the sexes. Under Tom Crichtley's direction the company have become a superb team, resourcefully comic in its employment of slapstick and Victorian word-games, bitter one moment, poignant the next. The contradictions of a complicated and sinister world are energetically conjured into being.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Victorian magic: Karen Hayes and Aidan McCann

THEATRE: Touring company presents a dramatic evocation of the life of Dickens's mistress, Ellen Ternan

Truth behind the illusions

Stuffed Shirts and
Marionettes
Warehouse, Croydon

ceased that few facts had emerged before Claire Tomalin wrote *The Invisible Woman* a decade ago, well over a century after Dickens's death. It is this very secrecy, and the social necessity for it, that Public Parts set out to convey, and their chosen

method, impressionistic, sardonic, consciously theatrical, enables them to dart swiftly between the public and the private faces of Victorian England, letting light into the murky underworld.

Ternan's family were theatre folk and we are shown more than we need to know about this — everyone gets to play Richard III — before the 18-year-old heroine meets the great man and is whisked away, with mother in tow, to a love-nest. Likewise, so many scenes illustrate the sordid

VISUAL ART: A major German figure celebrated; Croydon's new gallery; and Camden's Irish connection

Target practice for a loose cannon

Richard Cork
applauds the Tate
in Liverpool for
mounting the first
British exhibition
of Sigmar Polke's
audacious paintings

Why has Sigmar Polke, regarded by many as the outstanding German painter of today, never been given a retrospective show in Britain before now? Largely, I suspect, because of his reputation as a loose cannon in European art. Over the last 30 years, Polke has made a habit of upsetting every expectation, reveling in blatant inconsistency and an unrepentant display of bad pictorial manners.

He has no time for the patient pursuit of a single, easily identifiable style. Restless to a chronic extent, Polke has charged through the complex thickets of modernism like a rogue elephant on the rampage. Perhaps the English, saddled with innate reticence, find this unruliness hard to stomach. Even now, with the advent of a major Polke exhibition at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, there are no plans to bring the show down to London.

It is a pity. For the unpredictable German is quite unlike any other painter working at present. Madding he may be, and at times bewilderingly diverse. But through-out this turbulent survey he keeps viewers on their toes, and pushes the art of painting in so many directions that the outcome is strangely intoxicating.

Not that the show begins in an exuberant way. The earliest exhibit is a surprisingly small, undemonstrative canvas. It looks, at first, like a Barnett Newman abstraction, with a vertical brown "zip" running down the centre. But then the little keyholes painted at either side of the division become apparent. With the minimum of fuss and the maximum of dry wit, they transform the picture into a representation of two doors. And Polke completes the metamorphosis by calling his quietly subversive picture *Wardrobe*.

Since this painting hangs near a more playful image of sausages, seemingly leaping through space, we are tempted to ally the young Polke with the everyday concerns of Pop Art. He certainly looked on sweets, cakes and dairy products with relish, and filled many of his early canvases with their saccharine, gooey forms. Indeed, he stressed the links between art and consumerism by staging a 1963 show, with his friends Gerhard Richter and Konrad Lueg, in a Düsseldorf furniture store. Their paintings were displayed in various departments, while the artists exhib-



In *Paganini* — one of Sigmar Polke's largest and most disturbing works, painted between 1981 and 1983 — the dying musician seems to usher in the Devil and a dark panorama of engulfing evil

ited themselves in a sitting-room area as "living structures" in armchairs perched on pedestals.

The more we look at Polke's work of the period, though, the less it resembles Warhol or Lichtenstein. He and Richter may have called themselves exponents of Capitalist Realism, but neither artist subscribed wholeheartedly to the tenets of New York Pop. There is nothing flashy about Polke's early work. Although he sometimes adopted the bendy dots of photo-mechanical reproduction, the outcome is far removed from Lichtenstein.

Polke's 1965 *Girlfriends* uses those dots in a highly irregular spirit. He flouts the systematic, deadpan method of Lichtenstein, so that the dots end up scrambling the image rather than ordering it. Polke's anarchic hand can always be detected, making sure that the banal subject-matter never takes too much attention away from the wayward strategies of the artist himself.

He was too idiosyncratic ever to strive for the impersonal finish of Warhol. We soon become aware, at Liverpool, of a fascination with printed fabrics. They are often used instead of canvases, and he is happy to let them play a major part in the completed painting. But he never lets them prevent him from making his own, defiantly quirky contribution as well. In *Woman at a Mirror*, Polke uses an outrageous kitsch leopard-skin fabric as the basis of

the image. On top, though, his left brush summarises the contours of a female figure culled from advertising graphics. She reinforces the luxurious aura of the leopard-skin and, at the same time, challenges its attempt to dominate our attention.

As Polke's work gathered pace, so he distanced himself from all the avant-garde movements of the day.

Minimalism was deflated in an ironic painting called *Carl Andre in Delft*, where the grid of blank squares favoured by Andre's floor sculptures are filled with illusionistic images of blue Delft tiles. Polke further distanced himself from the heroic era of modernism by painting a composite abstraction: half geometric and half splashy, and then inscribing it like a question in a book with the catch-all title *Modern Art*.

Words, in fact, grew into an effective weapon of their own as he intensified his satirical assault. The paint in one 1969 canvas is confined to a black triangle, as clean-cut and flat as an Ellsworth Kelly. But Polke punctures the inherent pretensions by writing near the base: *The Higher Powers Command: Paint the Right Hand Corner Black!* The fact that the words look as if

they have been printed, by an ordinary typewriter, only adds to the mockery. It is a wonderfully impure intrusion, destroying the impeccable authority of the abstract form above. The more Polke undermined the prevailing languages of art, though, the more he ran the risk of becoming incestuous. However these pictures may appear, they seem after a while excessively ingrown. Clearing the ground can be a very invigorating enterprise, but only if you proceed to build a convincing alternative on the levelled site.

For a while, during the 1970s, Polke was unable to furnish painting with just such a new role. He collaborated heavily, suppressing his own initiative to an alarming extent. Then he concentrated on photography, film and video for the rest of the decade. Hallucinogenic drugs increasingly dictated his interests, and he seemed to have abandoned painting for ever.

With hindsight, though, we can now see how this difficult, uneven period, scarcely represented at Liverpool, served as the springboard for an astonishing renewal. The advent of another decade was heralded by one of his largest and

most impressive paintings: *Paganini*. In one sense, it is an elegiac work. The composer himself occupies the middle of the picture, expiring on his death-bed in faint outlines reminiscent of a 19th-century engraving.

But his hands are still raised, as though waving to the rhythm of the violin played by the Devil crouching on the end of his bed. This horned apparition, freely brushed in near-silhouette, is the most prominent figure. Macabre yet irresistible, he presides over the entire panorama, lending a diabolic energy even to the grinning clown on the far side of this unusually wide composition.

Below the jester, a row of figures recall the people in Polke's work from the early 1960s. They seem absurdly innocent and helpless here, however. For the clown is juggling with skulls which gradually become radioactive and be-smirched with swastikas as they tumble from his grasp. Everything in this half of the picture is caught up in a vortex, suggesting that Paganini's death somehow ushered in the engulfing advance of evil.

The mood of this powerful painting is far darker and more agitated than his earlier exhibits. It also begins a decisive shift away from the obsession with consumerism and art-about-art. Now Polke stares deep into history, and is not at all reassured by the forces he discovers there. As if to stress the hazardous,

at times apocalyptic currents at work, he starts using highly volatile and toxic substances that accentuate the paint's instability. And he reminds us, at every turn, of art's capacity to deceive. Diagrammatic projections are set up in *Measuring Clothes*, only to be flouted by the introduction of real shirts and trousers. Wooden stretchers normally hidden from the front of paintings suddenly become visible, as Polke begins to paint on transparent surfaces.

In a monumental recent work called *The Three Lies of Painting* all these strategies come into play, along with his familiar use of fabric and a sense of absurdity akin to Surrealism. Max Ernst seems to be invoked in some paintings, especially when Polke deploys figures based on engravings from the past. Fundamentally, though, he is out on his own. The variety of styles continues to disconcert, just as Polke leaps with dizzying speed from the French Revolution to grimy news photographs of refugees' camps. The freedom with which he roams through time is as exhilarating as his refusal to cultivate a tight, narrow identity. Now in his mid-fifties, Polke is working with as much zest as ever.

● Sigmar Polke is at the Tate Gallery, Albert Dock, Liverpool 0151-799 3229 until April 17

CORPORATE COLLECTING

ANY art located on an upper floor of Canary Wharf is likely to face stiff daytime competition from the views. John Russell Taylor writes. It is therefore probably just as well that the unveiling of the Credit Suisse London art collection is not taking place in some new gallery, which would be bizarrely located indeed, but in the offices for which the works have been specially designed.

Eight artists were commissioned to make site-specific pieces, and works by six more were acquired with the requirements of the location in view.

The artists commissioned have come up generally with bold, original work, far removed from the usual idea of "corporate art". Tony Cragg, for example, has carved in various fruit woods large fantasy renderings of pens, pencils and an inkwell, which loil in the corners of the Sculpture Room. Sol Lewitt has designed large and bold coloured abstractions for the Thames Room.

Installation artists of international note have been brought in. The Apollo Room is lined with papier mâché masks, musical scores and other materials generally reconciling art and nature, by the French team Anne and Patrick Poirier. The Spanish artist Juan Muñoz has put together a series of miniature wooden rooms inhabited by doll-like lead figures. The staff restaurant has been handed over in its entirety to Bruce McLean, whose lively designs serve as decorative murals and sculptures as well as skilfully articulating the space.

The Credit Suisse London art collection at Canary Wharf may be viewed by special appointment only. Tel 0171 888 8911.

No clear dividing line

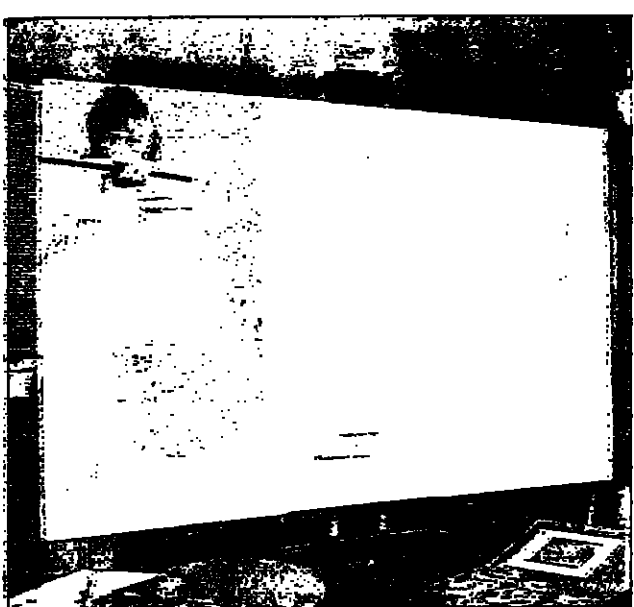
Sacha Craddock
on a painter
whose canvases
mix the personal
with the political

Rita Donagh's paintings hover between abstraction and illustration. She is of a generation which insists that painting was never there to describe or narrate alone.

The opening of her semi-retrospective at Camden Arts Centre coincided with the leaking of details of the Anglo-Irish framework document. Although many of Donagh's works are in some way concerned with Northern Ireland — the most notorious are her H block paintings in which the form or shape of an H hovers in illusory space — her treatment of the subject is complex. Donagh's family is from Ireland, but the tendency to equate personal experience with an obvious source of subject matter is too simplistic here. Donagh allows the processes of thought to run parallel with real events, real life and politics.

The earliest work here dates from 1974. Donagh says that her generation was the first to embrace what she calls the "wholly wonderful" possibility of working with figuration and abstraction simultaneously. Her paintings are closely related to her drawings. They range in focus from a crisp graphic clarity through to the blur of non-descriptive colour. Donagh acknowledges that her work has precedents in early Modernism. She found, though, that before her own generation artists used to be fiercely divided: you were either an abstract artist, standing up for what that meant, or adamantly, and apparently conversely, figurative.

It was the women's move-



Work in progress: Rita Donagh's painting, *Slade*, 1994

ment that allowed Donagh to overcome these divisions. Students and younger artists encouraged her to incorporate both public and private, decorative and expressive, geometric and descriptive, verbal and silent, serious and playful into her work. Previously, she says, women artists worked under a sort of "counter-pressure", often reacting by throwing themselves into geometry, or a theory or system. The risk was of "losing the part of yourself that has to do with feeling".

It may seem obvious now that the H in a painting such as *Lough Neagh*, 1984, could never be separated in our minds from the vision of the H Block. "What was interesting about that configuration," Donagh says "is that it instantly carried a charged meaning: the hunger-strikes. Looking back at it now, it seems almost melodramatic. Perhaps I was influenced by this awful sense of what might never be resolved. Of terrible consequences."

But at the same time, the painting was also a personal investigation into the way

imagery, symbolic as well as spatial, can be used within a painting. Donagh's method lends itself to such an ambition. The paint is thin, sparse, used purely for its descriptive qualities rather than its volume or texture. Donagh lets space, or at least the illusion of space, create places in which to float visual ideas. She says that she may do more abstract work in the future. She sees abstraction as a way of "not wanting to say anything for a time, a silence".

The situation in Ireland is changing fast. Will that affect the work she makes? Perhaps Donagh will allow that painterly silence to descend. *Slade*, her most recent work, invites a multilayered interpretation. A self-portrait on one side shares the painting surface with an "abstract" motif. It is based on the first day she came to teach at the Slade: she was automatically led to the Life Room, because the only women who worked in the school at the time were models in the life class.

● Rita Donagh is at Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 0171-425 2642 until March 26

THE inauguration of a new arts centre is always good news, especially if it contains an art gallery which is capable of attracting exhibitions of international calibre. The remarkable thing about the new Croydon Clocktower is that not only does it fit these criteria perfectly, but its opening exhibition, *Cock and Bull Stories: A Picasso Bestiary*, was created specially by and for it.

The idea of the show's curator, Neil Cox, is simple enough. Given that animals played such an important and recurring role throughout Picasso's career, would it not be interesting and novel to put together a bestiary along traditional lines using images in two dimensions and three — from the *Head of a Cat* Picasso drew in 1892, at the age of 11, to the mezzotint of a *Man With Two Women and a Dog* he made in 1971, when he turned 90.

Such a project could, of course, be quite humble. There are so many multiples that would fill the bill: prints and ceramics particularly. The closest Picasso himself came to ordering his artistic thoughts in this way was a plan of 1907, never carried further than some slight sketches, to illustrate his friend Apollinaire's book of poems *Le bestiaire corré*

Picasso's entry in zoo's who

John Russell Taylor marvels at the way a new arts centre in Croydon has managed to track down and capture the beasts in a great man

d'Orphée. In 1936 he returned to a similar subject with 32 aquatints and novel to put together a bestiary along traditional lines using images in two dimensions and three — from the *Head of a Cat* Picasso drew in 1892, at the age of 11, to the mezzotint of a *Man With Two Women and a Dog* he made in 1971, when he turned 90.

There are nine phases which flow smoothly into one another with a minimum

amount of print to read on the walls. For those inclined to read there is an admirable book, *A Picasso Bestiary*, by Neil Cox and Deborah Pouncy, which vividly fills in the background of the show from an immense range of parallels and allusions.

For those non-specialists who are more chary of the printed word, there is a brilliantly worked-out interactive computer programme which imparts an amazing amount of information in the form of a near-game that anyone capable of touching a screen can play. Not to mention a wide array of related events in the shape of talks and tours, workshops, music and dance.

The gallery itself is on the entrance floor of the very grand late-Victorian baroque building which used to house Croydon Library (and, in a sense still does, in a new Post-Modern block approached through the old entrance under Braithwaite Hall, the original reference library that is now used as a concert hall).

The temporary exhibition spaces consist of two large interlinked galleries, right next to the new Risco Gallery, a permanent home for the collection of Chinese ceramics left to the municipality by a local inhabitant in 1964, with another temporary exhibition space for related material at its centre. Upstairs there is a new local history museum display, *Lifetimes*, which also boasts, as well as objects lent by hundreds of locals, further interactive computer documentation.

But finally, it is the Picasso



Picasso's *Still life with Cat and Lobster* (1962), painted 70 years after the earliest entry in Croydon's show

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kirs Anderson

ELSEWHERE

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LONDON

CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER Opening night for Judd Hirsch, recording his long-awaited memoirs in a play by David Mamet, at the New York City Center, 100 W. 42nd St., New York, 7pm. Tickets \$10-15.

SCOTT HAMILTON The popular American saxophonist arrives on our shores fresh from his award-winning performance in *Boyz n the City* at the Royal Albert Hall, 100 W. 42nd St., New York, 7pm. Tickets \$10-15.

PEACE IN OUR TIME The touring production of the 1940s musical, inspired by a British comedy by the Nazis, Wynn Jones directs the 30-strong cast. Royal Albert Hall, 100 W. 42nd St., New York, 7pm. Tickets \$10-15.

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DANCE: Debra Craine reviews an attractive new production from Birmingham Royal Ballet

All dolled up in bright designs

The great advantage of using a designer like Peter Farmer — one completely conversant with the demands of dance rather than beholden to design trends in the theatre — is that a prized possession in the 19th-century ballet repertoire can be renewed without destroying the very qualities that made us treasure it in the first place. Unlike some of the design indignities visited on Tchaikovsky's ballets in recent years, Farmer's new *Coppélia*, unveiled by Birmingham Royal Ballet on Friday, is both logical and lovely so that, 125 years after the ballet's premiere in Paris, it still retains its enchantment.

Coppélia is miles away from the exoticism and fantasy of the Russian classics. There are no swans, no fairies, no witches — only a mechanical doll, a strong-willed young woman and a dotty sorcerer-scientist. Farmer's sets and costumes pick up on different aspects of the story: the rustic Carpathian village square in Act I; the snuff of mystery and magic in Dr Coppélia's cavernous dingy workshop, where Bunson burners burble against a backdrop of dusty velvet curtains. Only in Act III, in the opulent gardens of the Duke's mansion, does Farmer run the risk of over-aggrandisement — putti and candelabra vie for our attention with the decorative baroque excesses of the new village bell.

The choreography is more or less unchanged from Wright's 1979 production (now in the possession of the Scottish Ballet). Derived from the Petipa-Cocchetti version, Wright's focus on the detail of the story (remarkably straightforward by ballet standards) and the need to give each of its components a place in a unified whole. This is clearest in Act III, where the centrepiece of the Festival of the Bell makes sense of Dawn, Prayer and Work, dances which can seem to come out of nowhere in productions that have curtailed the suite. Particularly pleasing is Wright's Dance of the Hours, where his talent for harmonious groupings is well displayed. Wright's only miscalculation as producer has been to allow the character of Coppélia to sit too lightly on his story. The mad doctor is supposed to be the repository for all the dark forces within the ballet. He has more than a little in common with Dr Frankenstein: a man who would stop at nothing — including taking the life out of Franz — in order to turn his beloved mechanical doll Coppélia into flesh and blood.

The superstitions of the villagers attest to Coppélia's sinister power, but as played here by John Auld the old man trips tidily across the stage, eccentric and harmless, lonely and ridiculous. When Wright gives the final moments to Coppélia — a neat twist which sees his mechanical doll come to life after all — it comes too late to redeem the caricature.

The first-night cast was led by Sandra Madgwick, a lively and confident Swanilda, although there is a certain constraint to her movements that is at odds with her character's impetuosity. Sergiu Pobereznik has a handsome physique but needs to make Franz a more convincing lover.

The secret of the ballet's durability lies in the Delibes score, filled with sweet melodies, literal incident and humorous orchestral colouring. It was well-played by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia under conductor Paul Murphy.

Coppélia
Birmingham
Hippodrome

Sandra Madgwick as a lively Swanilda with John Auld as an eccentric and harmless Coppélia, in *Coppélia* at the Birmingham Hippodrome

THEATRE GUIDE

Jersey Kluge's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

House full, returns only

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Seats at all prices

House full, returns only

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House full, returns only

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Graveney represents best way forward for England



Graveney: in touch with modern game

If the decision-makers of county cricket act responsibly and progressively, an assumption that can never be made lightly, David Graveney will tomorrow become one of the most influential men in the game — an England selector of the desired age and wisdom as well as the eyes, ears and voice of the nation's professional players.

He is halfway there already. The game's workforce placed its faith in Graveney by electing him the first general secretary of the Cricketers' Association. Now, the delegates to the spring meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) must consider him for a post which could shift significantly the balance of power within the England team.

There are four nominations for the two re-electable places on the selection panel. Fred Titmus seems assured of retention and Jack Simmonds is an also-ran. This leaves one job between Graveney and Brian Bolus. It is a choice between generations, a choice between a man who knows almost every player in

the country personally and has their respect, and another who betrayed his remoteness from the modern game more than once last year.

Bolus won his seat, 12 months ago, primarily because he and Titmus were the stated preferences of Raymond Illingworth, the then new chairman of selectors. They have since ensured that Illingworth has a majority on contested decisions, a fact seldom seen to have been put to practical effect but a perceived restraint on Michael Atherton, the captain, and Keith Fletcher, the team manager.

Atherton believes that there must be a younger presence in selection to help represent his vision of a team for the future. He spoke informally to various players, including Graham Gooch and Mark Nicholas, the Hampshire captain. However, the feeling persists that the view of the active player is necessarily narrow. Graveney, 42 and retired only six months, is the flagbearer for youth and his election would be far more than cosmetic concession.

Alan Lee finds that the main candidates for one of the most influential jobs in cricket are generations apart

Bolus is scarcely known by the majority of players, an ignorance which may be mutual. An approachable and amusing man, his credibility is short where it most matters and not enhanced by his prolific after-dinner speaking act which depends greatly on him laughing uproariously at his own jokes.

Last summer, he made no secret of his role in life. "I'm only here to carry Raymond's coat," he would chortle on his regular visits to county press boxes. It was indiscreet and unhelpful to confess to the widely assumed and his energetic canvassing in recent days ought not to earn him a second year.

Graveney was one of the rejected nominees last year, but things are different now. Illingworth's star is not so much in the ascendant, for one thing. The system needs a shake

and Graveney, now that he has stopped playing, is capable of being an invaluable mediator between those closest to the day-to-day running of the side and the wise old men. Certainly, his day job with the Cricketers' Association is no handicap, much more a positive boon.

"I expect to be going around the county grounds every day of the week as a matter of course," he said. "I am very conscious that the main duty of my job is to defend the rights of the players. I see no problem in combining that with a selection role, but, if elected, I would expect to spend more time on dressing-room balconies than in committee rooms."

During his 22-year playing career with Gloucestershire, Somerset and Durham, Graveney made few enemies. His involvement in the last of the rebel tours to South Africa, in

1990, caused surprise, but was an indication of a mind less beholden to the establishment than is often assumed. He is obliged to confirm the impression now, as he fronts the players' case for improved pay and conditions, but his arguments are not designed to further the cosy complacency within the county game. "We breed cricketers who are very comfortable in their lifestyle but have no ambition," he said. "To be fair to them, we have to make some tough decisions and weed out those who are simply clogging up the system."

County playing staffs are generally too large — 25 and 26 is plain crazy. Clubs employ so many because they don't know if they can play and they are scared they will go elsewhere. We can attack this through the area of wages. If counties do not wish to have a higher wage bill, they will have to reduce their staffs. Fewer players would then get greater rewards and have to work harder for them."

Such solid logic, lucidly expressed, has been too rare in our self-centred domestic game. Graveney is also militant about the deplorable standard of practice facilities in England and about the primitive pension and insurance schemes in existence. "Do you know, if David Lawrence had suffered the knee injury which ended his career while playing for his club, rather than for England, he would have received only about £7,000," he said. "That can't be right."

This, and other inequities, are presently being tackled by Graveney, Alan Fordham and Matthew Fleming, a vibrant players' delegation on a liaison committee with the TCCB. "Progress is slow," Graveney said, "but we are still talking and I feel the door is always open to me at Lord's."

Another door, that of the high-profile and highly-tried panel under Illingworth, could and should be open to Graveney after the two-day meeting which begins at Lord's this morning.

Australia discuss players' contracts plan

Scotland ride luck and advance on united front

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the Ireland selectors wring their hands with woe at the bottom of rugby union's five nations' championship, Scotland, with a very similar playing base, go forward to challenge England for the title at Twickenham on March 18. It is a distinction that owes much to the direction that successive team managements have put on the game in Scotland and to a hard core of quality players over the past decade.

Jim Telfer, the former captain and coach and now the Scottish Rugby Union's director of rugby, emphasises the difference in fortunes. "We maintain that Ireland have more good young players than we do," he said yesterday. "We have seen their A and under-21 teams and we reckon they have the talent."

Which begs the question, where does it go? Has it been progressive for Ireland to introduce young players like David Corkery, Keith Woods and Niall Hogan to the championship and then drop them after one or two games? Has the relationship between players and management always been healthy?

In contrast, Telfer insists that, even in bad times, Scotland have retained a united front. "It is true to say that when our better players —

Gavin Hastings, Craig Chalmers, Kenny Milne — are playing well, they're a little better than Ireland's top players," Telfer said. It has been critical to Scotland's fortunes that these players have, since Christmas, hit the top of their form and have enjoyed the rub of the green that should be Ireland's, but so clearly has not been this season.

"We made ten changes after the game with South Africa," Telfer said. "It could have been 15, but the five who didn't change took a good look at themselves and realised they were lucky to be there. Others may have thought they were going to be dropped, but, unintentionally, had grown used to being in the side and were not."

"A little bit of luck here and

there has made a big difference. Ireland played very well against us and deserved to be ahead, but didn't kick their goals. We had two home games at the start of the year, which helped, and, in France, where we have generally played pretty well, we got the scores at the right time. They managed three cracking tries against us, but Gavin kicked a long penalty and his try right at the end was just too much for France."

"Yet we are leaking too many tries, which isn't the form of a team that is impregnable. If we play against England like we did against Wales last Saturday, we will be beaten. We have changed our game tactically this season, we have simplified the plan and tried to play a bit

more expansively through the forwards. Now, we will have to change again."

While the Scotland technical staff enjoy so substantial an upturn in fortunes, their administrators have assembled in Bristol with their opposite numbers from across the world for the series of committee meetings that precede the council meeting of the International Rugby Football Board this weekend.

Australia's representatives will bear with them details of their union's proposed players' contracts, to which Bob Dwyer, the coach, assumes he will be party. "The coach works under exactly the same rules as the players concerning professionalism," Dwyer said in Sydney yesterday. "People off the field who are responsible to the team are the people sponsors wish to expose in support of their product."

"I would assume those people are rewarded in a similar fashion [to the players]. There are probably about ten or so players that the sponsors look for all the time and one coach — me." A maximum of 30 players are due to be placed under contract by the Australian Rugby Union, with the details to be finalised by the end of this month.

Horan returns to fray

TIM HORAN'S hopes of playing for Australia in the World Cup this summer took a tentative step forward when he played in an obscure seven-a-side tournament in Queensland over the weekend (Greg Campbell writes). It was his first match since last May, when he damaged his right knee severely during the final of the Super 10 tournament in Durban.

Horan, generally acknowledged as one of the world's best centres, is aiming to play for a Queensland XV against the Argentinians on April 25, in time to justify selection for the World Cup party, which will be announced on May 1. Since the injury, Horan, 24 and capped 33 times, has undergone a series of operations and daily physiotherapy to rebuild the knee.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South		Love all	
♠ A98		♠ QJ74	
♥ 42		♥ J5	
♦ AQJ76		♦ 105	
♣ K32		♣ QJ984	
		♠ K108532	
		♥ 1083	
		♦ K4	
		♣ A5	
S	W	N	E
1♠	2♥	3♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ace of hearts

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

West leads three top hearts, dummy trumping the third round with the eight. What should East do?

Most players would overruff without giving the matter a second thought. But study the effect of discarding — you have kept your trump holding intact, and the declaring side has weakened theirs.

You make two trump tricks. In a funny sort of way, it is as though the declarer has played a round of trumps to which you do not have to follow — overruff and you have followed suit, and just get your natural trump trick, discard and you have kept a spare small trump to protect your higher trumps.

Picking up extra tricks by not overruffing comes in many forms. I saw this layout in trumps the other day:

void K10 J73
9654

The declarer ruffed a side suit with dummy's ten. If East overruffs, he comes to only one trump trick. By discarding, he makes two trump tricks.

□ The 55th annual university match between Oxford and Cambridge was played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club over the weekend. Oxford won by 241 IMPs to 211. The score in the series is now Cambridge 28 wins, Oxford 26 wins, with one match tied.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PACU
a. A vegetarian fish
b. An Amerindian language
c. A Samoan war dance

PREDACIOUS
a. Pompous
b. Premature
c. Preying upon

ROSELLA
a. A parakeet
b. A miniature rose-bush
c. A nun's coil

OSBORNITE
a. An invalid sailor
b. A type of biscuit
c. A meteor mineral

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Linares

After four rounds of the tournament in Linares, Spain, the strongest annual chess competition in the world, two relative outsiders have surged into an early lead. Grandmaster Veselin Topalov, of Bulgaria, and Grandmaster Alexander Beliavsky, of Ukraine, each has 3.5 points.

Nigel Short, of Great Britain, started slowly, losing to both joint-leaders. However, in the fourth round, he returned to form to win an efficient tactical battle against the former Yugoslav Grandmaster, Ljubomir Ljubojevic.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Ljubomir Ljubojevic
Linares, March 1995

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	exd4
4	Nxd4	Nc6
5	Nc3	Qc7
6	Bd2	a6
7	O-O	Nf6
8	Nf1	b5
9	Nc6	Qxc6
10	f4	b4
11	e5	g6
12	exd6	g5
13	Qe1	Qe5
14	bxc3	Rf8
15	Bd2	Rf2
16	Bd3	Rf2
17	Rb1	Qc7
18	c4	h5
19	Bc3	Rf6

WINNING MOVE

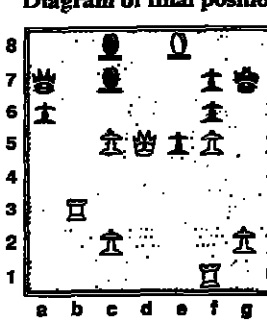
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Gazik - Chernin, Budapest 1993. Here Black continued with 1... Rc3+ and went on to win the game. However, he missed a chance to force a checkmate in four moves. Can you see what Grandmaster Chernin overlooked?

Solution: page 42

20	Qh4	Be7
21	Q5	c5
22	c5	Ra3
23	Qd4	Ra3
24	Qc3	Qe7
25	Rf6	Bd8
26	Rf3	Be7
27	Be4	Qc8
28	Qf3	Kf8
29	Bxc6	Qe7
30	Qd5	Kg7
31	Be8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Pan Pacific

The Mindscape international tournament in San Francisco has been won by the veteran Viktor Korchnoi, 63. The oldest player in the competition by ten years or more, Korchnoi dominated the event, conceding not a single defeat.

In the final round, he drew with London Grandmaster, Dr John Nunn, thus assuring himself of the first prize. Korchnoi scored eight points out of 11; Boris Gulko, of the United States, and John Nunn came equal second with 7.5.



Spencer sits it out at Grange Road, home of rugby union at Cambridge University

Spencer pays heavily for crossing rugby's fine line

It is three months since Adrian Spencer, naturally gifted rugby player and third-year undergraduate at Cambridge, stepped out at Twickenham and into the crossfire of the 100-year war between rugby union and rugby league.

For Spencer, the 23 minutes he played as a replacement against Oxford in the University match last December were his last in union before he became both pariah and cause célèbre. He was banned for 12 months once the Rugby Football Union (RFU) had its attention drawn, by the Rugby Football League (RFL), to five (unpaid) professional rugby league appearances by Spencer, 21, for London Broncos (the Crusaders) in 1993.

Between the scandalised die-hards at Twickenham and the martyr-seekers at Chapelown Road, Spencer was hung out to dry. Today, Spencer will again take to a union pitch at Old Deer Park, the home of London Welsh, quite legitimately as player-coach of Cambridge in the fifteenth annual league University match.

Having been shopped by league and shot at by union, he sports an admirable line in diplomacy. "All I want to do is play both sports for my university," he said. "Have I done anything dreadfully wrong?"

By playing for the Crusaders, Spencer "professionalised" himself in the definition of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB). Moreover, his case has again exposed the flimsiness of the "free gangway" between the sports at ama-

teur level. The dictionary definition of sporting professionalism talks of playing for money. Spencer, remember, did not receive a penny.

Union's insistence that the gangway applies only to players who are tainted by professionalism — Spencer's crime was merely to play alongside paid players — becomes almost daily more ridiculous as the confessional maelstrom of union players and remuneration.

Spencer, of St John's Coll-

ège, hails from Warrington. League was and remains his favourite sport. He represented the Great Britain under-19 amateur side, and before starting his chemical engineering degree, played his first union game for Liverpool St Helens Colts.

At Cambridge he played 18 months of rugby union; he made only half a dozen appearances for the Blues team [first XV] at inside centre before gaining a place on the University's bench for the University match. As the leading light of Cambridge's rugby league side at stand-off half, he sufficiently impressed Tony Gordon, then coach of London Crusaders,

to be offered "amateur" forms. Spencer played three games for London in the 1992-93 season and two more in 1993-94. "I was simply loving it."

"There was no money, but when Tony began faxing through a contract, I would have signed it if it wasn't for my father having his head screwed on and reminding me that I had a degree to complete," Spencer said. Apart from a wish at some point to play professional rugby league, Spencer thought no more of it. "Playing at Twickenham was a great thrill. Nobody takes to the pitch having read the RFU handbook. I wrote to them pleading ignorance of the laws. They said that was no justification for breaking them," he said.

Questions to ministers and an early-day motion signed by more than 100 MPs were gratifying, but as the small fish caught in the net of bigotry, Spencer's simple pleading carries more weight. "It's petty, inbred almost in the people who look after the two sides. I'm hoping, of course, but is it ever going to change?"

Debate at the annual meeting of the IRFB in Bristol next week will focus on permitting rugby league players to play union again after an agreed stand-down period. It has historic implications, but for the likes of Spencer, suspensions will probably still apply.

Any rugby lover would be advised simply to turn up at Richmond this afternoon and catch a fine young player doing what he enjoys best, no matter the code.

Sheffield maintain sequence of success

By NORMAN DE MESSQUITA

SHEFFIELD Steelers and Nottingham Panthers have virtually identical records in the premier division of ice hockey's British League and it seems likely that their meeting in Nottingham on the final Saturday of the regular season will determine who wins the title.

The Steelers beat Bracknell Bees 7-3 for their eleventh successive win, but it was not as easy as the score might suggest. The Bees defended bravely for two periods and did not fall behind until less than two minutes before the second interval.

The Panthers, beaten by Fife Flyers on Saturday, proved far too strong for Whitley Warriors on Sunday. The Warriors have now lost ten matches in a row and 21 of their last 24.

In contrast, the Flyers seem to have found the right formula at last with the arrival of Laurie Boschman, a player with 14 years' experience of the National Hockey League in North America. Wins over the Panthers and Durham Wasps enabled the Flyers to move ahead of Humber Hawks into seventh place and, although it is too late for them to challenge for the premier division title, they will be very dangerous when the play-offs start.

The most intense competition during the final three weeks of the regular season will be at the top of the first division for the coveted promotion play-off positions. Trafford Metros, having gained a valuable away point against Slough Jets, surprisingly dropped one at home to Midway Bears, which makes Swindon Wildcats narrow favourites for the vital fourth place.

RESULTS: British League: Premier division: Bracknell 3 Sheffield 7; Fife 7 Durham 4; Humber Hawks 7 Edinburgh 7; Nottingham 10; First division: Blackburn 8 Durness 2; Charnford 10 Swindon 15; Los Vegas Slough 8; Paisley 8; Guildford 8; Trafford 5; Midway 6.

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Victory fuels hope for Masters

Faldo's gripping revival built on putting prowess

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE surprise about Nick Faldo's victory at the Doral Ryder Open in Miami on Sunday was not that he had won on the US PGA Tour because, as the world's No 3 golfer, he is clearly capable of doing that. The surprise was that he had won so soon.

It was only Faldo's fifth event of the year in the United States — he had missed the cut in his previous event — and it came only a couple of months after he had set himself up in a temporary home at Lake Nona, Orlando.

Faldo did that to be near David Leadbetter, his coach, who has a teaching studio at Lake Nona, while making a serious attempt at the American circuit, where he thought the courses would be better prepared than in Europe and the greens more consistent.

He did not say as much, but he thought he needed to do something to reignite his career which, in terms of winning major championships, had begun to falter.

Faldo has not won a major championship since the 1992 Open Championship at Muirfield and since then had watched Nick Price nip past him with victories in the 1992 and 1994 US PGA Championships as well as in the thrilling Open last year at Turnberry. Furthermore, Faldo was only too aware that José María Olazábal's success in the Masters and the US Open victory

by Ernie Els meant that a new generation of strong young men who were under 30 had arisen. Faldo, 37, had to do something to put them down.

There is a certain irony in that the first step he has taken towards that aim, a one-stroke win over Peter Jacobsen and Greg Norman, was achieved by good putting, which he holds to be the weakest part of

afterwards. "It's nice when they go in like that. It will be nice if I can do that two days in a row."

His putting in the fourth round was not of the same order but it was good enough. It was his driving that was wild, never more so than on the 72nd hole, where he hit his tee shot into a lake.

The victory, his first in the US since the 1990 Masters, should give Faldo precisely the sort of boost in confidence he needs with the Masters only five weeks away. It suggests that his game is in better order than it has been at a comparable time of any year recently.

In 1991, for example, bad scheduling as far as the number of tournaments he had entered, and bad weather in those he did play, meant that he went into the Masters with fewer than one dozen competitive rounds in the US behind him. He was palpably rusty and it showed.

"I am very pleased and surprised," Faldo said on Sunday. "This is exactly what I have been working for and now I've done it. I wasn't sure how I was going to get on over here. This has taken a lot of the pressure off me."

So, Faldo has once again proved himself right in determining his course of action. Those who underestimate him or disagree with any action he takes do so at their peril. In matters to do with Nick Faldo,

Nick Faldo generally knows best. The loss of a leading sponsor or cast a shadow over the annual meeting of the Golf Foundation yesterday. Vauxhall had raised £170,000 for the Foundation in seven years of staging the Golf Club Team

Classic, and the Foundation's chairman, Findlay Picken, said its withdrawal "represents a major blow".

He explained: "Unless an early replacement can be found the effect on our income is only too apparent." A surplus of £30,174 from ordinary

activities, exceptional income of £82,633 and the abolition of the waiting-list for coaching were among the positive aspects of the year under review.

But Picken said: "The continuing underlying financial uncertainties leave no room for complacency."



Faldo lines up the putt on the last green that secured his triumph in Miami

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Souness to sue over transfer allegations

GRAEME SOUNESS, the former manager of Liverpool, has started a libel action for damages over reports in the *Today* newspaper about the alleged financial details in the transfer of a Danish international footballer to Anfield (John Goodbody writes). Solicitors for Souness said that the allegations about the deal, involving Torben Piechnik, the former Danish international defender, were "completely untrue".

Today claimed yesterday that Souness was to be interviewed by the police, the Premier League and the Inland Revenue over a missing £300,000 in the transfer of Piechnik from Copenhagen FC in September 1992.

Cardiff City supporters face possible arrest if they turn up for the match tonight with Swansea City, who have banned Cardiff supporters because of fears of violence.

Price repeats success

BOWLS: Lorraine Woodley and Mary Price, of the Desborough club at Maidenhead, won the English women's national indoor pairs championship at Northampton yesterday, beating Mary London and Ann Waters of Angel, Tonbridge, 26-5 (Gordon Allan writes). It is Price's second triumph in three years. In 1993, she won with Ann Erridge, but she resumed her partnership with Woodley, a former national singles champion outdoors, on Erridge's departure to live in Devon. They were too strong and resourceful for the Tonbridge pair, doggedly though London played at lead.

Parore misses century

CRICKET: Adam Parore failed to secure his second Test century of the summer, but his 89 was enough to guide New Zealand past South Africa's first innings total by the end of play yesterday in Auckland. At the close on the third day, New Zealand were 316 for seven, giving them a lead of 22. It was Parore's third Test fifty, following his maiden century against West Indies at Christchurch last month. In the morning session, the New Zealand innings threatened to disintegrate, but Parore pulled things around, figuring in a stand of 82 with his captain, Ken Rutherford.

Wales plan tour

RUGBY LEAGUE: After their victory in the John Smith's European championship, Wales are looking at a short tour of Australia this summer in preparation for the World Cup in England and Wales in October. Mike Nicholas, the Wales manager, said: "We need to sustain the momentum built up. We have now to be treated as a threat in the World Cup, with France and Western Samoa in our group."

Two better than one

CRICKET: Plans were unveiled yesterday for a national club league, starting in 1996, in which teams will play two-day matches rather than the traditional one-day variety. There are expected to be eight regional leagues of 12 teams, with the winners going forward to a national knockout. The competition is modelled on the Australian system under which clubs play grade matches over successive weekends.

Brooking on panel

NATIONAL LOTTERY: Trevor Brooking, the former England footballer, Adrian Moorhouse, the 1988 Olympic 100 metres bronze medalist, and Judy Simpson, the former Commonwealth Games heptathlete gold medal winner, are among the 13 members of the Lottery Awards Panel, which was named yesterday. The panel will allocate a projected £1.6 billion to sport in the next five years.

Aberdeen's relegation fight could cost players dear

By KEVIN MCCARRA

ABERDEEN may be embroiled in a struggle against relegation, but yesterday the players at least demonstrated that they are not mercenaries. A deputation met the caretaker manager, Roy Aitken, at Pittodrie to inform him that the team had decided to forgo all bonuses until the end of the season.

"They want to prove," Aitken said, "that finance does not enter into it. The players realise that for Aberdeen, everything depends on

preserving our status." According to reports at the weekend, the Aberdeen board had been prepared to pay £5,000 a man if the team avoided relegation. Any such policy, however, would have smacked of rewarding mediocrity. The players' decision to deny themselves any sort of win bonus could greatly reduce their earnings, with losses increasing if victories mount up. The policy may assuage the feelings of supporters because it demonstrates the players share their recognition of the severity of the club's position.

As it is, the squad is prepared to leave it to the board to decide if any payment is due once the season is over. Cynics may be inclined to point out that the players have, in effect, been spurning win bonuses all season. A 2-0 defeat by Celtic on Sunday left them with only six League victories from their 27 matches.

To add to Aitken's problems, Ray McKinnon, the midfield player, will be forced to sit out three of the club's last nine matches after being booked on Sunday for dissent. The yellow

card was his eleventh of the season — he had already served a two-match suspension in October — and took his disciplinary tally above the 16-point threshold. He will be banned for three games from March 19, missing fixtures against Kilmarnock, Rangers and Celtic.

Aberdeen are in second-bottom place and, should they remain there, would have to face their premier division future with a play-off against the first division runners-up, Falkirk, who are immediately above the Pittodrie club in the table, have a

three-point advantage over Aberdeen and play their game in hand at Motherwell this evening.

Should Patrick Thistle win their next two matches, at home against Dundee United tonight and Aberdeen, themselves, on Saturday, they will push Aitken's team to the very foot of the premier division.

Calculating the permutations, though, would be a waste of the manager's energies. Aitken needs instead to explore the enigma of a reputable squad that has become addicted to mediocrity.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

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Australians get that sinking feeling

d game,
y name

La Plante offers a jolly mixture as before

Question. How do you pick up the threads of a television story, the last episode of which went out ten years ago? Answer. Very slowly — nothing remotely challenging or exciting should happen for at least the first hour.

That, at least, appears to be the view of Lynda La Plante, the writer of *She's Out* (ITV), a six-part serial that attempts to pick up where *Widows* 2 left off. Slowly, slowly may catch meek but, if La Plante is right, it also catches your target audience — women nursing a secret desire to be bank robbers and jewel thieves.

Quite where that leaves us men for the next six weeks, I'm not sure — in the spare room watching repeats of *Bottom* on the portable, I expect. For certainly we are a little excluded from the extraordinary world that *La Plante* has created for the return from incarceration of her heroine, Dolly

Rawlins: armed robber, jewel thief and husband murderer (there you are, the plot of *Widows*, 1 and 2 in seven words).

It's the sort of world where inmates of a women's prison break into spontaneous choruses of *There is Nothing Like a Dame* in the communal showers; the sort of world where a rotting and derelict nursing home can be made habitable in the space of a day and the sort of world where women float down stairs in their best frock saying things like "can we all synchronise watches". Dolly Rawlins may be out of Holloway, but she has walked straight into Malory Towers.

Even the prison governor seemed to be suffering from a nasty dose of jolly hockey sticks, as she bade farewell: "There will be a lot of girls who will miss you, Dolly." Just for a brief second and reality threatened to rear its head, with Dolly imparting a few home-

truths about "heavy-duty dykes", but then it was straight back to escapism as normal — a sentimental bashing-out and a white Rolls-Royce to fantasyland.

But if a television writer as accomplished as La Plante abandons reality, she does so quite deliberately. If her policemen have been chosen for their buns rather than their badinage — "what did she pull anyway, a robbery?" — then so, too, is the story. Dolly, rather silly, La Plante spun a web designed to keep her devotees stuck to their armchairs for the next five Mondays. Having introduced our heroine to a new gang of female accomplices and us to the news that her £6 million cache of stolen diamonds is long gone, it surely cannot be long before Dolly and the gels return to a life of crime. In other words: Dolly pulls it off — again.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Over on BBC2, *Ruling Passions* continued to fascinate and inadvertently amuse in fairly equal proportions. Given that its chosen subject was the spread of venereal disease through the British Empire, that it fascinated at all was a quite an achievement for the directors, Alex West and David Wilson. But the story of the short-lived days of the regimental brothel is a good one — when an Indian

regiment wasn't a regiment without its own band of licensed harlots and orders weren't orders unless they sought "extra attractive" women in accordance with circular memo 21a. Any sense of moral outrage, you rather got the impression, had long faded.

It was a very different picture, however, that the programme painted in Africa, where the attitude of British colonialists to prostitution and venereal disease was blamed for everything from racial segregation (possibly) to the modern AIDS epidemic (an obvious but unconvincing afterthought). Such provocative arguments require a bit of serious thought and Michael Jackson, the controller of BBC2, has done the programme no favours by scheduling directly after his smut hour, *Bottom* and *Game On*. In the wake of such prolonged exposure to schoolboy silliness, it is quite difficult to take

lines such as "from the earliest days of British expansion, the threat of venereal disease was ever present" very seriously.

But it was the old empire hands who volunteered for sexual reminiscences who were the stars. Some favoured the direct approach (anyone still in doubt about what little boys might do for a few rupees should consult the early novels of Simon Raven), others were still making unconvincing excuses decades after the event: "I got some of my officers to take me along one evening — just to see what went on. I'd never been in a brothel before."

Others still were charmingly circumspect: "We all got so physically fit you see, which had a slight drawback in that it made people wish to have female company in a way they might not have done had they not been so fit." And no cold showers, I suppose.

If it was sex that brought the

British Empire to its knees (oh, for goodness sake, stop giggling), the same can be said of the modern Catholic Church in Ireland. According to *Dancing at the Crossroads* (BBC2), a *Lane Show* special, the recent spate of sex scandals has contributed significantly to the erosion of the Church's hitherto impregnable (I said stop it) position at the heart of Ireland's political establishment. The future, according to Fintan O'Toole's informative film, lies in that cultural melting pot that is Jack Charlton's Irish soccer team. "One of the great things about the Irish soccer team," explained Roddy Doyle, "was the inclusion of players who strictly speaking are not Irish."

But then this, of course, was the man whose previous celebration of Irishness went something along the lines of "Sing out loud, sing out loud, we're black and we're proud." And just a little confused?

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (64754)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (6530026)
- 9.05 Killybegs Studio discussion (s) (5411397)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7806378) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days (s) (Ceefax) (806281) 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekly magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (721945)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1684738) 12.05 Pebble Mill (s) (7430949) 12.55 Regional News and weather (1506375)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (79910)
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (7780129) 1.50 Golf for Gold (s) (7784945)
- 2.15 FILM: Perry Mason — The Case of the Lethal Lesson (1989) starring Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale. The legal eagle defends a young law student accused of murder. Directed by Christian Nyby II. (Ceefax) (628484)
- 3.50 Jackanory. Kathy Burke with part one of *The Twits* (s) (8080923) 4.00 Willy Fog. (Ceefax) (821762)
- 4.25 Grimmy (1441804) 4.35 Incredible Games. (Ceefax) (s) (1708939)
- 5.00 Newsround (8079007) 5.10 Grange Hill. School drama series. (Ceefax) (s) (8116303)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (804910). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (197)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (587). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
- 7.00 Holiday. Reports from Torquay, a sail cruise around the Galapagos and skiing in Morzine, France. (Ceefax) (s) (8378)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Bianca goes missing. (Ceefax) (s) (571)
- 8.00 A Question of Sport. David Coleman, Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by Darren Gough, Colin McRae, Tim Flowers and Judy Oakes. (Ceefax) (s) (7026)



Larry Grayson was game for a laugh (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Shut That Door — A Tribute to Larry Grayson. A celebration of the career of the camp comic performer. (Ceefax) (8533)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5741)
- 9.30 Clive James — Postcard From Berlin. (Ceefax) (s) (126942). Wales: Wales (512115) 10.00 Clive James (899974) 11.40-11.55am Film. *Crossplot* (70452)
- 10.00 Omnibus: Joshua Bell. A documentary profile of the young American violinist. (Ceefax) (174129). Northern Ireland: Country Times 10.45-10.55 Bedford Street 11.10 Omnibus 12.05am-1.40 Film. *Crossplot*
- 11.10 FILM: *Crossplot* (1989) starring Roger Moore. Thriller about a London advertising executive helping to stop an assassination attempt on a visiting African statesman. Directed by Alvin Rakoff (132194)
- 12.45am Weather (1880601)

BBC2

- 6.20 Open University: Maths (7443674) 6.45 Learning for All: Under the Walnut Tree (2208858) 7.10 From Child to Pupil (5418804) 7.35 Art in the 15th Century: Florence (5199129)
- 8.00 BBC Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7906393) 8.15 Westminster On-Line With Sir Bernard Ingham (s) (4271282)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: Standard Grade Geography (3200552) 9.25 Around Scotland (5555991) 9.45 You and Me (5637465) 10.00 Playdays (8997587) 10.25 English Express (1645231) 10.45 The Experimenter (4178378) 11.05 Soap (5941378) 11.15 Music Makers (5002216) 11.35 Seeing Through Science (9480129) 12.00 See Hear! (30084) 12.30 Working Lunch (47910) 1.00 Teaching Today (77552) 1.30 O and A (25377620) 1.40 You and Me (86543262) 1.45 Numbers Plus (25396755) 2.00 Gordon T. Gopher (87132552)
- 2.10 Horizon: Exodus (r). (Ceefax) (s) (3265216)
- 3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross. (Ceefax) (4399571) 3.50 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8088465)
- 4.00 Today's Day. Recent history quiz (s) (200)
- 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (484)
- 5.00 Esther Studio discussion series (s) (9494)
- 5.30 Catchword (736)
- 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (14-1594)
- 6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (597113)
- 7.10 The Tick. Animated adventures (s) (797620)
- 7.30 NEW The Knowledge. Using the Jo on education. (Ceefax) (s) (113)
- 8.00 Public Eye: Silent Partners. Looking after relatives suffering from severe mental illness. (Ceefax) (5668)



Madhur Jaffrey begins a culinary tour (8.30pm)

- 8.30 CHOICE Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India (Ceefax) (s) (8213)
- 9.00 Murder Most Horrid II. A Severe Case of Death. Black comedy (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8113)
- 9.30 World Figure Skating Championships. Birmingham (62303)
- 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (773194)
- 11.15 The Late Show. An assessment of the influence of the Government-funded television achievements in Northern Ireland (s) (731855) 11.55 Weather (344674) 12.00 Modern Art. Muses O'Clock (450885)
- 12.25am Introduction to Computer Aided Design (4583972) 12.55 The Record. The day in Parliament (s) (3400205). Ends at 1.20
- 2.00-4.00 Night School: Modern Languages (76601)

The numbers listed in the Video Plus Codes are the numbers which can be used to order the video or video cassette. The numbers listed in the Video Plus Codes are the numbers which can be used to order the video or video cassette.

CHOICE



Clive James mixes humour and pathos (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Clive James — Postcard From Berlin. (BBC1, 9.30pm)

To appease the reader who accuses this column of a campaign against the balding Australian, let me say that his latest *Postcard* contains one of his funniest routines as well as a numbing moment when jokes are laid aside and the brutality of the Third Reich comes starkly to the surface. The routine goes like this: the Trabant car, an evil-smelling rat-trap that has been swept away with the rest of the former East Germany. An obvious prop it might be, but James exploits it brilliantly. Abruptly switching the mood, he shows us the prison where opponents of Hitler were confined and the hooks from which they were hanged. Easy giggles at a nudist beach soon follow but even at his most flippant, James is never dull.

Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India. (BBC2, 8.30pm)

Promising an "endless array of magically spiced food", Madhur Jaffrey begins a culinary tour of India in Kerala. Here is the land of spices, but also the land of coconuts. Both feature strongly in Jaffrey's dishes, cooked out of doors in the manner of Keith Floyd. The frequent diversions into topography and culture are also Floydian although here the similarity ends. Jaffrey may be an actress but she makes Floyd seem like a ham, and not the sort you can like. She is, all the while, an enthusiastic presenter who knows her subject down to the last grain of black pepper. As usual, everything is done far too quickly for the recipes to be taken down. But you will not be surprised to learn there is an accompanying book.

Network First: Hollywood Vice. (TV, 10.40pm)

For 25 years, the unfortunately-named Fred Clapp was a detective with the Los Angeles police. His speciality was the vice trade and his daily contact was with hookers, pimps and madams. Inventive and resourceful, he organised stings which have passed into LA legend. He once arrested 23 call-girls by luring them to a non-existent party. He made a colleague dress as an Ethiopian prince to help a drugs bust. But work became an obsession. Clapp admits that he felt more comfortable with police life than at home. The penalties were too high for him to leave. He even brings in relationships with his sons. The testimonies of the wives, the sons, fellow cops and a gravel-voiced madam make their contribution to a garish story.

Without Walls. (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

The restaurant critic of *The Times* takes over the *Jacuzzi* slot to let us know where he stands on vegetarians. In a shell, Jonathan Meades thinks they are pious and sentimental with it. He even brings in Adolf Hitler — "the most influential vegetarian of the 20th century", a lover of animals but not of human beings if they happened to be Jews or political dissidents. Vegetarians hit back by comparing battery chicken farms to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Which should give the favour of a film that is lively, combative and often very funny. The same cannot be said for the other *Without Walls* offering, a ponderous examination of sports car design under the misleading title of *Auto Erotic*. Peter Waymark

CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (7882533)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (s) (3207465) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8801736)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place with John Stapleton (s) (700216)
- 10.35 This Morning (26866587) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1633620)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2203303)
- 12.55 Emmerdale (r). (Teletext) (2117194) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (57024910)
- 1.55 Vanessa. Vanessa Feltz talks to people who are, or have been, obsessed by a star (Teletext) (s) (35067303) 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (74761484) 2.50 Blue Heelers (7352858)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines. (Teletext) (6018397) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (6017668)
- 3.30 The Magic House (s) (2255587) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (8086007) 3.50 Twinkle the Dream Belief (r) (s) (8075931) 4.00 Bugdile the Little Helicopter (8104387) 4.15 The Dreamstone (Teletext) (s) (8422196) 4.40 Chris Cross (Teletext) (s) (956261)
- 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (8287910)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (94552)
- 5.55 Your Show Viewers' opinions (877910)
- 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (303)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (755)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (8674)
- 7.30 Saint and Gravelle's World of Sport. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves present classic sporting moments from the 1970s (939)
- 8.00 The Bill: New Moves. The new probationers have an eventful first day. (Teletext) (2194)
- 8.30 September Song. A family feud pushes Billy to the brink of disaster. (Teletext) (s) (4129)
- 9.00 Peak Practice: To Have and to Hold. Beth misses a cry for help from a widowed farmer until it is perhaps too late. (Teletext) (s) (8465)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (30277)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (853113)



Jonathan Meades on fruit and veg (9.30pm)

- 9.00 CHOICE Without Walls: Auto Erotic (3281) 9.30 *Jacuzzi* the Vegetarians (52842)
- 10.00 FILM: *Close My Eyes* (1990) starring Alan Rickman, Saskia Reeves and Clive Owen. A drama about a brother and sister who are drawn to one another. Directed by Stephen Poliakoff. (Teletext) (4533)
- 12.00 The Obituary Show. A mock celebratory obituary of Sir Jimmy Savile (r) (s) (6017885)
- 12.35am Football Italia — Mezzanotte. Highlights of Reggiana v Genoa (2237779)
- 1.35 Blood Street and Glory. A history of martial arts (r) (s) (223427)
- 2.05 FILM: *Black Eye* (1989, b/w) starring Otto Kruger and Mary Maguire. A drama set in pre-revolutionary Moscow about the head waiter of a fashionable restaurant. Herbert Brenson directs (4155666). Ends 3.25

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Sandokan (r) (2200674)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (85333)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (12736)
- 9.30 Schools: Eureka! (5834) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (5522533) 10.00 Fourways Farm (7813688) 10.10 Mafly Everywhere (1951484) 10.28 Ten Centside (1938991) 10.45 Coming Together (4977552) 11.00 Science in Focus (4371705) 11.22 Stage One (8591991) 11.38 Schools of Work (5189533) 11.45 First Edition (4203858)
- 12.00 House To House. Political magazine series chaired by Maya Even (26200)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early learning (78533)
- 1.30 Widgeit (r) (s) (35984026)
- 1.55 Pete Smith Specials (b/w). *Curious Conquests* takes a look at odd games from around the world. *Tips on Tips* offers advice to soldiers when sent abroad (7703026)
- 2.20 FILM: *The Moon Is Down* (1943, b/w) starring Cedric Hardwicke. A Second World War propaganda film about the Norwegian Resistance movement. Directed by Irving Pichel (40587)
- 4.00 Profiles of Nature: The Gray Seals of Sable Island. A wildlife documentary in which a team of experts from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, filmed the annual migration of the grey seal herds to Sable Island, off Nova Scotia (r) (668)
- 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (552)
- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are a mother and the nanny she fired because she thought she was usurping her role. (Teletext) (s) (8122113)
- 5.50 Terrytoons Classic cartoons (857533)
- 6.00 Babylon 5. American science-fiction adventure series. (Teletext) (s) (245113)
- 6.55 Terrytoons featuring Deputy Dug (467842)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (715842) 7.50 The Film (765915)
- 8.00 Classic Motorcycles. Programme three of the seven-part series featuring British-made machines. Narrated by Timothy Spall. (Teletext) (s) (2656)
- 8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (257)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (7775484) 2.50-3.20 Blockbusters (72358) 3.25-3.30 Anglia News (72358) 3.35-3.40 The Magic House (72358) 3.45-3.50 Anglia Weather (72358) 3.55-4.00 Anglia News (72358) 4.05-4.10 Anglia News (72358) 4.15-4.20 Anglia News (72358) 4.25-4.30 Anglia News (72358) 4.35-4.40 Anglia News (72358) 4.45-4.50 Anglia News (72358) 4.55-5.00 Anglia News (72358) 5.05-5.10 Anglia News (72358) 5.15-5.20 Anglia News (72358) 5.25-5.30 Anglia News (72358) 5.35-5.40 Anglia News (72358) 5.45-5.50 Anglia News (72358) 5.55-6.00 Anglia News (72358) 6.05-6.10 Anglia News (72358) 6.15-6.20 Anglia News (72358) 6.25-6.30 Anglia News (72358) 6.35-6.40 Anglia News (72358) 6.45-6.50 Anglia News (72358) 6.55-7.00 Anglia News (72358) 7.05-7.10 Anglia News (72358) 7.15-7.20 Anglia News (72358) 7.25-7.30 Anglia News (72358) 7.35-7.40 Anglia News (72358) 7.45-7.50 Anglia News (72358) 7.55-8.00 Anglia News (72358) 8.05-8.10 Anglia News (72358) 8.15-8.20 Anglia News (72358) 8.25-8.30 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Strike action ruled out

Players seek
pay pledge
from TCCB

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THREATS of militancy are alien to the average county cricketer but this morning the employers must take heed of a new and determined mood. The players are prepared to take action, possibly drastic action, unless they are assured that their lot will be substantially improved in the wake of the sudden wealth acquired by the English game from its £60 million television rights deal.

Every county delegate heading to Lord's for the spring meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), which begins today, has been faxed a copy of a statement from the Cricketers' Association, the players' union, containing an implicit threat of disruption in pursuit of their wage claim.

After their own annual meeting last week, the players express themselves "extremely disappointed" by the board's rejection of a £20,000 minimum for capped players this year. It is reluctantly, perhaps sceptically, acknowledged that money has been allocated elsewhere. Already, however, the players have set their sights on 1996 and their words make it clear that they will not easily be placated a second time.

They have asked the TCCB to guarantee that future agreements "will recognise and take into account the shortfall for 1995". Most significantly, the statement adds: "We would like to receive the TCCB's confirmation of the above and a date for commencement of negotiations for 1996 before the board asks members to sign their declaration for the coming season."

The declaration is not a playing contract, which is the province of each individual county, but an undertaking to abide by the rules and regulations of the board on all matters, including conduct and international availability. Every contracted player must

sign such a form and if the association's 360 members withheld signatures en bloc, the board would be faced with a considerable problem.

David Graveney, the general secretary of the association, is at pains to stress that strike action is not being considered. He also points out that most counties already apply the English minimum and that the shortfall is therefore small. But by refusing to sign the agreements with the TCCB, the players would be inviting a

confrontation. Technically, the board could rule them all ineligible to play in its competitions, though this would be a crazy counter-productive move.

A quiet challenge to authority is issued in another paragraph of the players' proclamation: "The counties should be mindful of the disservice to the game which would be perpetrated should record profits be announced at the end of 1995 without steps being taken to increase the limited rewards of the players."

The statement will raise hackles at Lord's today, as its intention, but it is simply a warning shot in what could become a far more serious battle. The board has been either coy or indecisive about

how it will spend its new-found riches. The players are quite right in demanding their share.

Graveney and his executive committee are fully prepared to see county staffs cut to accommodate higher salaries — indeed, they would welcome it. Their statement, far from focusing entirely on personal gain, also encourages the counties to develop a national coaching structure and to disown the self-interest which are "a continual blight upon our game" by agreeing to the central employment of groundsmen, in pursuit of better four-day pitches. The association has also drawn up its own code of conduct, a welcome initiative.

The players' unrest is likely to deflect some attention from England affairs but the position of the team manager, Keith Fletcher, will be discussed in full when the winter tours are considered. Fletcher has no intention of resigning, with more than two years of his contract to run, and indications are that he will continue in the job at least until the end of the summer.

Some county chairmen have been militating for Fletcher's removal, citing his perceived failure to create a sense of purpose among England players. Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, has also been conspicuously shy when the need has arisen to support Fletcher.

More is at stake, however, than one man's job. To dismiss Fletcher would cost the board £100,000 and it would be left with the problem of appointing a successor in a role for which candidates and a job description are equally elusive.

The eventual solution may be for Illingworth to run the side full time, with an assistant dealing primarily with test practice and administration. Such a step, however, is highly unlikely to be agreed at Lord's in the next two days.

Graveney's way, page 39

Arrowsmith skates past qualification hurdle



Jenna Arrowsmith came thirteenth out of 18 competitors seeking to qualify for the world figure skating championships at Birmingham yesterday. The British champion will nevertheless compete as the host nation's automatic representative. Reports, page 42. Photograph: Kevin Lamarque

FA blocks Armstrong's path back

BY JOHN GOODBODY

TO THE frustration of his club, Chris Armstrong, the Crystal Palace forward, has been barred by the Football Association from playing for at least another week after being found positive for taking cannabis in an out-of-competition test.

Armstrong will miss both the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg against Liverpool on Wednesday night and the FA Carling Premiership match against Aston Villa on Saturday.

However, if his rehabilitation continues satisfactorily, the FA may allow Armstrong, at 23 one of the most talented young strikers in English football, to play in the Premiership game against Sheffield

Wednesday next Tuesday. This would mean that he had been out of the game for three of four weeks, the normal rehabilitation for anyone taking cannabis.

His absence from the next two games will damage Palace's hopes of reaching the Coca-Cola Cup final and of escaping relegation to the Endersleigh Insurance League. He has already missed two matches while he was undergoing treatment. Palace are at present third from bottom of the Premiership.

The FA said yesterday that it could not consider drug-taking "a minor matter". It went on: "Less than a week ago, Crystal Palace agreed to a programme of assessment and counselling for Armstrong. It is less than

two weeks since the player was confirmed as taking marijuana.

"A drugs programme drawn up jointly by the FA and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), with professional advice from the Sports Council, cannot be adjusted to meet the understandable desire of any club to play its strongest team in every game."

The FA added that it "deeply regretted" the publicity in recent days and that "confidentiality in medical matters is a universally accepted concept; when it is broken, it is bound to be detrimental to all involved".

Alan Smith, the Palace manager, said: "The whole thing is a storm in a tea-cup. I cannot see what the problem is. This

is so minor, it is ridiculous. He has apologised. We have dealt with the matter internally and now he is fit."

He said that he did not want "the boy destroyed by it. Since the day of the tests there has been a cloud over us all as we waited for it to break."

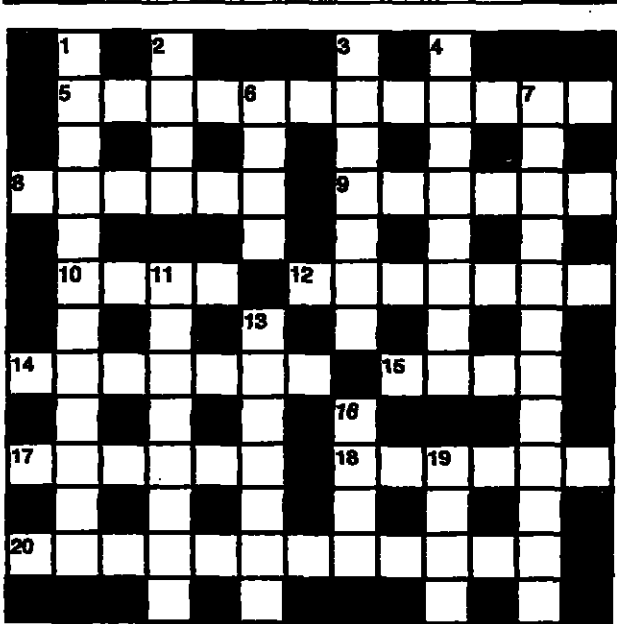
The PFA has said that there have been nine positive tests since out-of-competition testing began at the start of the season, but they have largely involved mild stimulants in cold cures.

The game has been particularly alert to the problems of drugs ever since Paul Merson, the Arsenal and England forward, admitted in November to taking cocaine. He had to undergo treatment before being allowed to return to the Premiership.

Although marijuana is a recreational, rather than a performance-enhancing, drug, it is still a criminal offence to possess the substance.

Both the FA and the PFA are concerned that many youngsters who earn a lot of money may become the target of pushers. Last season, nine of the 1,300 members of the PFA, aged between 16 and 18, were helped with drug problems.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) tested for marijuana for the first time at the 1988 Olympic Games, although it took no action over the "very few positives" that were found. The IOC took its action after being asked by several countries to see whether it was a problem among top-class competitors.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 413

ACROSS

- 5 Language of William I (6,6)
8 Brief rainfall; sloppy team (6)
9 Hidden, implicit (6)
10 Rectangular courtyard (4)
12 Caretaker (7)
14 Stabbed through (7)
15 Class of words denoting action (4)
17 Folk instrument, box with plucked strings (6)
18 Of physical differences of human groups (6)
20 Hal/Percy/Falstaff play (5,2,4,1)

DOWN

- 1 Alert, watchful (2,3,3,4)
2 Top of hill; forehead (4)
3 Pass (burden) to another (7)
4 Straddle (8)
6 Square English measure (4)
7 Isn't that astonishing! (3,3,4,2)
11 Camle breed; old Scots country (8)
13 Newly-enlisted person (7)
16 Tiny drink; let fall (4)
19 Remedy; French priest (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 412

- ACROSS: 1 Ticked pink 8 Panel 9 Rat race 10 Dial 11 Farewell 13 Purple 14 Yellow 17 Rapacity 19 Snow 22 Cholera 23 Up-end 24 Greenmantle
DOWN: 1 Trepid 2 Centaur 3 Loll 4 Dorian 5 In the red 6 Knave 7 Mellow 12 Black eye 13 Piracy 15 Lenient 16 Strain 18 Prong 20 Wedge 21 Puma

TIMES PUBLICATIONS: The Times Guide: English Style and Usage (H) £8.99. International Phraseology: The World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-5, Single European Market, 1999 each, Peoples of Europe (H) £16.99. European Parliament - June 1994 (H) £2.99. The Times Guide to the New British Style (H) £3.99. The Times Maps: The World (Wall Map laminated) £2.99. The Times (H) £4.99. The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50. The Times 1000 1995 (H) £3.50. The Times Concise Atlas of the Bible (H) £13.99 (reduced from £18.99). The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50. Book of Brainbusters £3.49. Prices include P&P (UK). Cheques with order payable to Alcan Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QA. Return delivery. Tel. 081 852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

Awkward squad ready to trip Cole

BY PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United have not had long to enjoy the Premiership record 9-0 score. Tonight they return to Selhurst Park — the scene against Crystal Palace two months ago of their unhappiest night of the season — this time to meet Wimbledon.

Then, as now, a win would take them to the top of the table, at least for 24 hours, but if the disorder of that night should be avoided, a return to reality with a bump after the euphoria of Saturday's romp seems almost guaranteed, against the other member of the south London awkward squad.

"We cannot stay on cloud nine for long, because you can be sure Wimbledon will

be fired up to bring us down to earth," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said. Wimbledon are always at their most dangerous when wounded, and after consecutive home defeats, they are likely to provide testing opposition.

Ferguson was eager to ensure his side did not get carried away, and particularly Andy Cole, whose five goals took his tally to seven in seven games since his £7 million signing from Newcastle. Having defended his record signing against criticism before the weekend, he practised a bit of psychology to ensure Cole keeps his feet on the ground.

"If he had taken all his chances, Andy Cole could be sitting on an amazing total of 14 goals from seven games," Ferguson said. "He missed two against Blackburn,

three at Everton and a couple against Crystal Palace."

The chances against Crystal Palace and Everton were costly, United taking only one point out of six from games they would have expected to win.

"He seems likely to have got his confidence now OK," Ferguson said. "His first reactions, as he showed particularly in the first and last goals, are so quick." □ Eric Cantona was back in training with Manchester United yesterday. Cantona, who trained with the reserves, is expected to help with United's youngsters and assist at their school of excellence during his eight-month ban.

□ Everton are to appeal against the sending off of Duncan Ferguson at Leicester on Saturday.

Christie decides not to run and run

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE tale of intrigue yesterday was in the best traditions of dear old Agatha. Only this script was the work of another Christie. The one whose legs run and run.

Linford Christie, who has been appearing for a tenth year as one of the fastest men on Earth, told a German television interviewer on Sunday that he would not be competing in the world indoor championships in Barcelona this week. Eight days earlier, he had told the British media that he would be.

At a press conference last Tuesday, his name was down for the 60 metres when the Great Britain squad was announced. On Saturday he ran one of his fastest indoor 60 metres, 6.49sec. Who could possibly beat him in Barcelona?

The plot thickened on Sunday evening when Ron Roddan, Christie's coach, and Verona Elder, the Great Britain team manager, were asked to clarify Christie's

position in the light of his interview on German television. Both said they were not aware of his intention to withdraw, though Elder did say Christie had been tired.

Tony Ward, the British Athletic Federation spokesman, said yesterday morning that the fog was "making us look slightly ridiculous". Meanwhile, the International Amateur Athletic Federation thought it had fallen into the mousetrap.

Assured by Sandro Giovannelli, the IAAF's competitions director, that Christie was out, Winner was quoted by international news agencies as saying that he was "disappointed, shocked and flabbergasted" at Christie's withdrawal. Winner said on Radio 5 Live's lunchtime news that "one expects a certain moral leadership".

As The Times called, Winner was feeling like a loser. "This is the worst day of my life," he said. "Now Sandro is saying 'wait a minute'; he had

not spoken personally to Linford. Now I realise it is athletics gossip. I have been caught in a trap which was accidentally set for me."

Or so he thought. An hour later, Winner was back on the attack. The athlete put out a statement confirming his withdrawal. "I am tired," Christie said.

"I think his morale picked



Christie: "I am tired"

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